



SHOCK AT PREGNANT SMOKERS

Report by Andrew Turton

A HEALTH boss has spoken of her disappointment that nearly one in six of all mothers-to-be in Dudley are smoking throughout their pregnancy.

Shocking new figures reveal that a total of 15.7 per cent — down from 16.1 — in the borough continue lighting up during the nine months that they are expecting a baby. That's more than the national average of just 11.4 per cent.

In the Black Country, Cannock and Stafford, 2,773 women were recorded as smokers at the time of giving birth in 2014/15, leading to fears that babies are caused serious harm.

Dudley's Councillor Rachel Harris, who oversees health in the borough, said: "We are very disappointed that too many pregnant women are smoking. We know it can harm the

baby in the womb from day one and causes higher rates of stillbirth, premature birth, low birth weight and sudden infant death.

"However, stopping smoking early in pregnancy can almost completely prevent damage to the baby and stopping at any time during pregnancy reduces the risk of the baby's health being harmed. We are working with our partners in the NHS to help pregnant women get the advice and support they need to quit smoking."

She urged all pregnant women who smoke, along with their family and friends who also smoke, to get help and support from the Dudley Stop Smoking Service or their GP.

According to the latest figure from the Health and Social Care Information Centre, 18.8 per cent in Wolverhampton are smoking, up from 18.7 per cent in the previous 12 months. In Walsall it's up from 13.7 to 14.7.

Deprived

The figure is 10 per cent in Sandwell and West Birmingham — an increase of 0.4 per cent.

Professor Kevin Fenton, director of health and well-being at Public Health England, said: "There are still significant differences across regions and social groups with the burden and harm hitting hardest in more deprived communities."

"Stopping smoking is the best thing a woman and her partner can do to protect their own health and the health of their baby, both during pregnancy and after."

"Quitting and remaining smoke free can be difficult and, like many smokers, expectant parents may need help."

He added: "Women who smoke need to know that they are increasing the chances of abnormal fetal growth and risking their baby being stillborn."

Father in car death tragedy is named



Family man Dave Hinton, of Halesowen, died after being struck by a car in Dudley while collecting a playhouse for children

Family man killed

A FATHER-OF-EIGHT from Halesowen who died after being hit by a car as he strapped his child into the back seat of his own vehicle has been named locally as Dave Hinton.

The 47-year-old had taken his family to collect a Wendy house he had bought online when a car struck him on Oakham Road on Saturday.

Mr Hinton suffered serious injuries in the collision with Volkswagen Polo and was airlifted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, where he died of his injuries.

Residents had rushed to the family's aid and carried out CPR on the father, who wasn't breathing, until paramedics arrived.

His wife Nadine, 34, and two young children had to be cut free from the wreckage of their Peugeot 206 following the crash and were treated for minor injuries.

Floral tributes have been left at the scene of the accident and residents have spoken of their shock at the death.

Adele Northall, aged 32, who lives opposite the crash site, said: "My husband heard the bang and he went straight out. The family were still trapped in the car. It's just awful." Kyra Thomas, 42, who was among those who tried to help the family, said: "It's heartbreaking."

Friends have taken to social media site Facebook to pay their respects to the family man.

SHOOTING

Man wounded in foot as shot fired in street

A MAN was shot in the foot in Quinton in what is believed to have been a targeted attack.

Police say a man got out of a car in Highfield Lane, before firing the weapon, at 1.20pm on Monday.

The victim suffered a ricochet injury to his foot.

The road was sealed off by police as a forensics team moved in to investigate the incident.

Anyone with information is asked to call the police on 101.

SUPERMARKET

Jobs on the way as new store to be built

ALDI will open a new store in Oldbury in October with the budget chain due to start recruiting workers.

The supermarket will be built on vacant land off Wolverhampton Road, creating 40 jobs.

Sandwell Council said a recruitment fair will take place at the Ramada Oldbury on July 2 between 4pm and 8pm.

The 4,114 sq ft store, which got permission in February, will have a 115-space car park and is being built opposite the town's Asda supermarket.

PLANNING

Decision to be made over King Arthur pub

THE end is in sight for the landmark King Arthur pub with councillors being recommended to approve plans to flatten it to make way for a new Aldi supermarket.

The German budget chain has lodged proposals to demolish the 1920s roadhouse, beside the Birmingham New Road in Dudley, to make way for the store.

Supermarket bosses say the new 1,000 sq ft store will create 40 jobs and have a 94-space car park.

But the scheme has divided opinion across the borough, with letters in favour and a petition again the plan, which goes before councillors on Monday.

INSIDE

CAN'T SAY NO TO OKLAHOMA



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Councillor Rachel Harris

11-year-old boy escapes gang of men

FOUR men attempted to abduct an 11-year-old boy in a Netherton street.

Police say the youngster was approached in St George's Road by the men at around 5pm on Thursday, June 18. They asked the boy to get into their light coloured BMW, but he kicked one of the group and ran away. Police are investigating the incident and said specialist officers are speaking with the boy and his parents.

Meanwhile, parents have been warned to be on their guard following reports of a man trying to lure a schoolgirl into his car in Tipton.

Police are carrying out extra patrols after the infant pupil was approached by a man in a black Mercedes last Wednesday.

The girl was ahead of her mother in Bramah Way when the car pulled alongside her and a man started speaking to her. The child went back towards her mother but the man kept calling to her and started to open the car door. Both mother and child ran off.

The man was described as Asian, aged 40 to 50, with a grey and black beard.

Library in bid to transform shops parade

CRADLEY Library could move to a revamped shopping parade under plans which include a supermarket, new shops and flats.

Campaigners are looking at ideas to have rundown shops in Colley Gate transformed, after claiming that boarded-up shop are blighting the area and have become a magnet for vandals and arsonists.

Councillors say that relocating the town's library, currently around the corner in Colley Lane, is forming part of the proposals. They claim Cradley Library is one of the least used in Dudley borough and a move could boost numbers using it.

Developers Hortons' Estates and Antringham showcased their ideas to around 100 people who attended the Cradley Action Group meeting last week.

Dudley Council own two of the properties and the developers are entering talks with the landlords of the others in order to buy the four remaining stores.

If agreements cannot be reached Dudley Council says it will seek to use compulsory purchase powers to secure the properties. A planning application would be submitted.



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Drug addict is jailed for mean theft



Despicable — Richard Mills

A DRUG addict who was given a day's work helping to lay carpets at the home of a 69-year-old woman stole her jewellery, worth £4,000.

The victim had given serial offender Richard Mills breakfast and cups of tea while he worked at the house. He repaid her kindness by stealing an engagement ring and eternity ring, both 'priceless' to her because of sentimental value.

Mills also took a watch and two silver chains which he sold to buy drugs, revealed Miss Sharonjit Bahia, prosecuting, at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The defendant was an odd job man

brought in to help at the Coseley home of the victim on February 6. Miss Bahia explained: "The woman fed him breakfast and provided numerous cups of tea and biscuits. The defendant was then asked to clear up some rooms upstairs."

An hour after the carpet fitters left the occupant went upstairs and saw a gold ring on the bathroom floor. Fears were confirmed when she realised jewellery was missing from her bedroom.

Mills, who had 31 previous convictions, had walked out wearing her husband's hat and carrying a pork pie taken from the fridge. This had happened just

two days after he appeared before magistrates on another matter. He was arrested for the jewellery theft on March 5 after being detained at a supermarket for shoplifting bottles of gin.

The victim did not ask for compensation because she assumed he would just steal to raise the money. Mr Jon Roe, defending, said Mills 'bitterly regrets giving in to temptation.'

Mills, of Florence Avenue, Lanesfield, pleaded guilty to theft and was jailed for two years and three months by Judge Martin Walsh, who told him: "This was a mean and despicable offence."

Cowboy builders conned disabled widow aged 86

THREE young cowboy builders charged a disabled 86-year-old widow £500 for roof repairs that were not needed, a judge heard.

She was deliberately targeted by the unqualified men who made a cold call at her Dudley home on January 16, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The vulnerable victim, who uses a walking frame and lives alone, was told that they were working in the area and had noticed the ridge tiles on her house were loose. It later emerged that a neighbour had seen one of the men climbing up a ladder to pull the tiles free, said Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting.

Charlie Lee, aged 20, 19-year-old Nathan Smith and their 17-year-old accomplice quoted £500, which was quickly reduced by £50 when the initial offer was turned down. The victim grudgingly agreed to the work because she felt intimidated by the men and wanted to get rid of them.

They refused a cheque and, as she only had £190 in cash, had to go to the post office to withdraw the balance. She was driven by a friend but her hands shook so much she could not enter the pin number. When she returned home to tell the trio they took the £190, wrote a receipt and said they would come back for the rest of the money the following day.

Pressurised

Mr Jackson said: "The work did not need doing. She felt pressurised and anxious and only agreed to get rid of them. They did not make overt threats. Their presence was sufficient."

Trading Standard officers were waiting with police when Lee from Justin Park, Market Harborough, Smith of Coventry and the teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, returned.

All three pleaded guilty to aggressive working practice. Lee was given four months' detention in a Young Offenders Institution, the teenager received the same period on a detention and trading order and Smith, the only one without previous convictions, was handed a four-month detention order suspended for 18 months with 70 hours of unpaid work, £750 costs and £63 compensation.

The van they were using was ordered to be seized.

Couple celebrate 60 years together



Diamond wedding anniversary couple Raymond and Margery Edwards look at a photograph of their wedding day

A DIAMOND wedding couple are raising a glass to 60 years of happy marriage after they first met at a famous Black Country pub.

Ray and Margery Edwards, aged 81 and 83, have marked the marriage milestone this month with their family.

Mrs Edwards' parents Samuel and Ellen Green were licensees at The Crooked House pub, near Himley, for more than 20 years. Their daughter used to work occasional shifts behind the bar.

"I used to get a free pint so that was nice," said Mr Edwards. "We started writing to each other and love blossomed from there."

Mr Edwards was enlisted for national service in 1952 serving in the 59th Regiment, the Royal Artillery, in Carlisle, working on radar.

The couple kept in touch as pen pals before Mr Edwards was demobbed in April 1954. They courted for just over a year before tying the knot at St Michael's Church, in Himley, on June 11,

1955. After holding the wedding reception at The Crooked House they had a short honeymoon in Pontypridd, South Wales.

The couple lived in Ambleside and Wordsley before Kingswinford for the past 47 years.

Mr Edwards worked in maintenance at Wordsley Hospital for 32 years and his wife worked at Hickmans ammunition factory, Kingswinford. The couple have three children, two grandchildren and one great grandson.

Sign up call for council's automatic alert service

COUNCIL tenants in Dudley can sign up to a service that sends them alerts about meetings and services.

Once registered for the free service, Dudley Council will automatically send information about upcoming tenant and resident association meetings, events and housing services.

Residents can sign up e at www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts or by calling (01384) 815168.

Housing chief Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "As a community council we pride ourselves on engaging with local residents and we want to ensure all of the tenants and residents living on our estates become actively involved in the running of our borough."

"Dudley Council has many tenants and residents associations operating in the area and they make an invaluable contribution as they ensure everyone has a say in the development of their estate, as well as providing an opportunity to meet other people."

"These communications methods provide customers with another way to keep in touch, particularly as many people now have mobile phones and email. We want to embrace these convenient communication channels to involve residents wherever possible."

There are currently 27 tenant and resident associations in the borough whose members are actively helping to run their estates. The groups discuss many issues relating to their areas and develop ideas of how they can help to make improvements.

Free festival of fun at Tividale

A SUMMER festival of live entertainment and fairground rides is coming to Tividale this weekend.

Tividale Summer Festival is taking place this Saturday between 12pm and 5pm at the town's football club. A packed afternoon of events and activities are planned at the club's ground, in Packwood Lane. I will feature a children's fun fair and entertainment, the Sandwell Youth Bus and displays and games provided by Sandwell Leisure Trust. There will be music from live bands and open mic showcase.

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael said: "The Tividale Festival is the second of three events in our Rowley Festival this summer. "It's free and promises lots of great fun and entertainment for all the family."

Breweries will have stall at town fair

A PAIR of Halesowen breweries are teaming up to produce a new ale and to run a stall at a summer event in the town. Angel Ales and Fixed Wheel Brewery will be selling their bottled beers at a Black Country Fair being held in the town centre on July 25.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Lenny loses weight after health scare

LENNY Henry has told how he shed three and a half stone after being warned by doctors he could develop type one diabetes.

The Dudley-born comedian, 56, said his mother was killed by the illness.

He told the Daily Mail's Weekend magazine: "My mum lost two legs through diabetes and eventually died from it, so I knew I had to lose weight. The doctor warned me I was heading the same way. Dieting is tedious but I feel better for it. It's hard, but like anything, if you put your mind to it, you can do it."

Hopes for Led Zep reunion dashed

HOPES of a Led Zeppelin reunion have been dashed after guitarist Jimmy Page said he had moved on from the idea, after trying to persuade singer Robert Plant and bass player John Paul Jones to reform the group.

Black Country rock star Plant has refused to get involved since the comeback concert at London's O2 Arena in 2007. Now Page insists he no longer years to perform with them, which he said during a press conference at Olympic Studios in London to mark the deluxe reissuing of the band's final three LPs.

QE's new method to combat cancer

A BIRMINGHAM hospital is one of the first in the country to use a new cancer treatment.

Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital will carry out stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR). NHS England has invested a total of £15 million to allow up to 750 new patients a year to access the treatment at 17 centres across the country. SABR is a precise technique which delivers high doses of radiation while causing less damage to healthy tissue.

Awareness drive over female blood disorder

THE Haemophilia Society has warned that hundreds of women in the Black Country may be unaware that they have a genetic bleeding disorder.

In women symptoms for a condition that affects the way blood clots include heavy periods, bruising easily and frequent or heavy nosebleeds.

The Haemophilia Society has launched an awareness campaign 'Talking Red' to alert people to the symptoms. Visit talkingred.org

Apartments planned

FOURTEEN apartments could be built on vacant land in Quarry Bank under new plans.

The scheme has been earmarked for a site on the corner of Thorns Road and Caledonia. Officers at Dudley Council recommended the proposals are approved at a meeting on Monday.

Hospital parking fee increases under fire



Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley

PARKING charges have risen at Russells Hall Hospital, increasing by as much as 50 per cent.

But hospital bosses have defended the move, saying running and maintenance costs mean a rise was needed after a two-year freeze on tariffs.

People parking for up to 30 minutes have to pay £1.50 rather than £1. An hour-long stay costs £2.60, up from £2. An hour-and-a-half's parking has risen by 60p to £3.60. A stay of up to three hours has increased from £4 to £4.60, while a long stay up to 24 hours has risen by 10p to £5.60.

Dudley councillor Bill Etheridge, who has campaigned on the issue, called the move 'shameful' and fears the move could lead to congestion on surrounding roads.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said he is writing to the Health Secretary about the fee hike. He said: "Lots of people in Dudley say how frustrating it is to have to spend so much on parking when going to the hospital for an appointment or to visit loved ones. These fees often hit vulnerable people when they may already be facing a fall in their income."

Paula Clark, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Patient and visitor car park charges had remained unchanged for two years. Pressures such as running costs and keeping the car parks safe and secure has forced us to increase the charges.

"We do not take decisions to increase charges to patients lightly and we have checked the market rate to see how we compare to local trusts, some of which charge for the first 15 minutes and most charge more for all day parking."

£300m vision for M5 site creating 6,000 jobs

AN ENTERPRISE zone could be created next to the M5 near Halesowen in a bid to attract £300 million of investment and generate around 6,000 jobs.

Dudley Council has announced it is working on proposals to transform land close to Junction 3 of the motorway.

Dudley Council's economic development boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said the borough suffered from a shortage of employment sites close to motorway junctions but had identified the M5 site as having the potential to attract firms.

The authority is looking to set up 'an enterprise zone-style investment site' on the land which borders Manor Way to the north and the motorway to the east.

Full proposals will be drawn up before a public consultation.

"One of the key issues which has hindered large scale inward investment in Dudley has been our lack of significant readily available employment sites near to motorway junctions," Councillor Ahmed said.

"We have now identified an area that has the potential to attract up to £300m of investment and to create over 6,000 new jobs, which would be a major economic boost to Dudley borough and allow us to play a key role in the regional growth agenda for the West Midlands over the next 10 years.

Links

"The land is on the motorway junction which would provide excellent transport links and create much-needed jobs but we will of course put the whole proposal out to full public consultation."

Members of the council's cabinet will be asked to authorise a study to explore the potential of the site. If approved, it will then form part of the review of the 'joint core strategy for the Black Country', which will start next year.

The planning document will provide guidelines for the future development of the region and as well as employment will look at retail, office, leisure, transport and environmental improvements for the coming years.

It follows the creation of the Dudley Business Investment Zone launched at the Waterfront in Brierley Hill in a bid to fill up empty office space and bring 1,600 jobs to the region by offering a two-year business rates holiday.

Call to support Armed Forces Day



Nobby Clarke at Oldbury Royal British Legion memorial garden before Armed Forces Day in Oldbury and Himley

VETERANS are preparing for this year's Armed Forces Day celebrations in Oldbury and are appealing for people to turn out to show their support.

A parade will start at 11.30am on Saturday and will be followed by a free event for all the family from 12.15pm to 4pm. The parade will start at Low Town car park and make its way along Birmingham Street to the Civic Square.

The Mayor of Sandwell Coun-

cillor Barbara Price will present medals and badges to veterans during a special ceremony.

Other activities and entertainment include a drill by Air Cadets, bhangra music and dhol drummers, songs by Maggie O'Hara, music by Ukulele Union and children's rides.

Nobby Clarke, from the Oldbury branch of the Royal British Legion, said: "It should be a great event. We normally get hundreds

coming along. People like to watch the parade and show their support."

The Oldbury branch will be joined by branches from Tip-ton, Blackheath, Smethwick and Wednesbury for the event.

Armed Forces Day celebrations will be taking place at Himley Hall and Park on Sunday.

The event will run from 11am and will include a presentation of medals and badges.

Boss seeks support in call for fair police fund

MPS from across the West Midlands have met to discuss a plea for 'fairer funding' for the police.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson, is seeking cross-party support to cope with the impact of £132 million worth of cuts to force budgets.

The Labour commissioner says the West Midlands is hit harder than wealthier areas such as Surrey.

He met with MPs from both Labour and the Conservative parties in the wake of a report that showed the West Midlands grant had been slashed by 26 per cent and was suffering the biggest cuts in the country.

The National Audit Office report claimed police forces do not have a clear understanding of the demands placed upon them or of the factors that affect their costs. Funding for the police decreased by £2.3 billion – 25 per cent – between 2010 and this year.

Deal

Mr Jamieson said: "The National Audit Office recently confirmed what I've been saying for a long time that the West Midlands gets an unfair deal. We have received cuts of 23 per cent, compared to Surrey that has received just 12 per cent cuts to their police budget.

"I am not calling for the total police budget to rise, I just want the West Midlands to get its fair share of funding and cuts from that budget. I was delighted to engage with MPs from both sides of the House of Commons in this joint push for fairer funding."

Housing stock is at a 25-year low

THE boss of a Black Country chain of estate agents says that stock levels of homes on the market are the lowest he has known in a quarter of a century in the industry.

Paul Dubberley & Co managing partner Lee Morton said the firm had had a lot of recent sales success and the market in the wake of the General Election was 'a lot more upbeat'.

"There were so many people chasing these particular houses it was incredible. If you get the right stock in then it will go."

Mr Morton said that it was the supply of homes that was now the problem. "In 25 years in the industry I have never known a market with stock levels as low as they are at the moment," he added.

Pupils perform at teddy bear picnic

FAMILIES are invited to attend a teddy bears' picnic and enjoy a show by Thorns Primary School pupils in the bandstand. The event at Stevens Park, Quarry Bank, is being held on Saturday from 1pm.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



ERIC Gill (1882-1940) was a fabulously gifted artist. He was also a raging pervert and paedophile who had sex with his sister, daughters and his own dog. In her fine series *How to Be Bohemian* (BBC4), Victoria Coren Mitchell could barely conceal her disgust. And yet Gill's sculpture of Prospero with a naked Ariel still stands boldly on the front of the BBC's Broadcasting House. It is a dilemma. Do you bin an artist's entire life work if he is exposed as a sexual rampager? And how can Auntie Beeb keep Eric Gill's sculpture but ban Rolf Harris's Two Little Boys?

MEANWHILE, Rolf Harris is condemned for a song he has written in jail denouncing his victims and trying to excuse his sins. This is brandished as proof that he shows no remorse. Well, maybe he doesn't. But there is another possibility. At 85, Rolf Harris may simply be losing his marbles.

SIR Ian McKellen hits the big screen with the release of the Sherlock movie *Mr Holmes*.



I wish him well. I've interviewed him twice and each time was a delight. He was spunky, spontaneous, informative, totally un-luvvie and delightfully indiscreet. If only all celebs were such a pleasure.

THE right thing to say on first beholding the beautiful, charming, ever-compliant robot Anita in *Humans* (C4) is: "This looks like a fascinating study of human and robotic relationships in the near future." The wrong thing to say on first beholding the beautiful, charming, ever-compliant robot Anita is: "I want one."

GIVEN that online porn has already destroyed thousands of relationships, who can guess what havoc humanoid robots might wreak in the not-too-distant future? Imagine, ladies, the joys of a slim-tipped permanent 25-year-old house-warrior who worships you, never picks his nose, does the washing and lawn-mowing joyfully and is genuinely fascinated by what Molly in HR said to Fran in Accounts. Imagine, gentlemen. On second thoughts, there is no need to entice men to imagine what sort of robots they'd like. They need no encouragement.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

College bosses pledge to make improvements

A COLLEGE serving thousands of students across the Black Country and Birmingham says it will boost standards after Ofsted inspectors urged it to make improvements.

Birmingham Metropolitan College, which has campuses in Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Kidderminster, Great Barr and Birmingham, has been ordered to improve by Ofsted.

by Andrew Turton

Inspectors said too few students achieved qualifications, especially English and maths. They also claimed attendance at some lessons was poor.

Inspectors said the proportion of apprentices who successfully completed their qualifications had declined.

The college has slipped from a good rating in 2011 and was rated as 'requiring improvement' following a visit in May. Ofsted said too few learners on study programmes complete work experience to improve their understanding of how skills they learn are applied in the workplace.

Strengths

The report did highlight a series of strengths, saying teaching, learning and assessment are outstanding in manufacturing technology apprenticeships. They also praised sport and visual arts. Ofsted said the college worked well with Local Enterprise Partnerships, councils and employers to adapt the curriculum to support regional priorities.

College principal Andrew Cleaves said they were committed to 'accelerating' the rate of improvements.

"The Ofsted findings are absolutely in line with our own assessment of where we are and supports our plans to continue to improve outcomes for our students," he said.

"We are absolutely committed to accelerating the rate of improvement and it was gratifying that, as part of the inspection process, so many of our key employer partners and local stakeholders spoke enthusiastically about the way we were delivering an excellent training service, to meet local and regional employer skills needs.

"Staff and students have much to be proud of at BMet and I'm encouraged that this report highlights our efforts over the past year or so to make significant improvements. We acknowledge that there is still more to do."

Bird watchers flock to centre



RSPB administrator Lesley Jennings admires the view

WITH stunning views across grassland, ponds and hundreds of trees, it is the perfect vantage point for a spot of bird watching. This is just one of the areas where visitors to the new RSPB centre at Sandwell Valley nature reserve will be able to observe wildlife.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is a charitable organisation and construction of the society's £400,000 Nature's Reach complex is now complete, with work now focused on fitting out the inside of the facility.

Around 1,500 residents have been invited to have the first look at the centre on July 15, with the new centre to open fully to the public later that week.

It is the moment the RSPB has been waiting for since the old building in Sandwell Valley was severely damaged in a devastating arson attack in 2010.

But the sparkling new complex has risen from the ashes, with the two-storey modern-looking building also fitted with a porch and terrace area.

The RSPB is appealing for more volunteers. Call 0121 357 7395 or email nadia.shaikh@rspb.org.uk

£120m eco park plan is back on the agenda

PLANS for a £120 million 'eco park' with homes and a waste processing plant are being revived after being put on hold three years ago. The development in Coseley was given the go-ahead by Dudley Council in May 2012.

Since then there has been no work carried out on the land off Sedgley Road East, while the project's website has been taken down.

Bosses say they struggled to attract investment but are now preparing to unveil a fresh set of plans.

The exact details are being kept under wraps but development bosses say it will not be 'radically different' from what was originally proposed.

A supermarket is not expected to form part of the new development and it is not known whether the waste plant will remain in the blueprint.

Graham Willson, director of site owners Skelton Group Investments, said: "Things are progressing well and we have been in discussions with Dudley Council.

"The market has changed considerably in the years since we started the plans, in particular with regard to food stores, but we are looking closely at alternatives."

He added the full proposals would be revealed soon.

Residents who opposed the plans fear they could have another fight on their hands.



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'Devastating' blow by bat sees teen sent behind bars

A 17-year-old youth who hit a man over the head with a bat – causing life-changing injuries – has been locked up for 18 months.

The devastating blow left Tariq Mahmood with weakness to the right side of his body as well as difficulties with speech and memory, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The injury was so serious that a section of the 37-year-old's skull had to be removed during surgery, causing permanent disfigurement.

M6 slip road to stay shut for months

MOTORISTS face another five months of misery after it was revealed roadworks on an M6 slip road will overrun until November.

The Junction 9 southbound slip road at Wednesbury has been closed since January, causing long tailbacks.

The repair work was due to be completed by the end of this month but has now been put back after Highways bosses explained that problems with corrosion to steel beams had been far greater than anticipated.

A spokesperson said: "Following our initial investigations, we have had to extend the duration of these works. We have found clusters of damage around the loadbearing supports and joints.

"The location of these necessary repairs is proving to be more challenging than originally anticipated.

"As a result these works are now expected to be completed in November 2015."

The jury at an earlier trial cleared his attacker, who is 6ft 2ins tall and 16 stone, of attempted murder and causing grievous bodily harm with intent, but convicted him on the lesser charge of causing grievous bodily harm.

Mr Robert Price, prosecuting, said: "These events have had a profound physical and psychological effect on Mr Mahmood and his family. There has been permanent disfigurement."

Mr Trevor Siddie, defending, said: "The defendant accepts he hit Mr Mahmood with the bat but it is unlikely, given the verdict on the more serious counts and the medical evidence, that the jury believed there was more than one blow. But the event and its consequences will remain with the defendant for the rest of his life."

Fighting

Mr Mahmood was attacked outside his Dudley home in August last year after going to the assistance of his 19-year-old stepson Ajmal Choudhary, who was fighting with one of several people who had arrived at the address.

The 17-year-old, who was of previous good character and aged 16 at the time, cannot be identified for legal reasons. He had the time spent in custody awaiting trial deducted from the proposed sentence before it was passed. He received an 18-month detention and training order.

Search for borough's top volunteers



Eileen Fielding, volunteering centre development officer, and Dale Pickin publicise Dudley CVS awards

DUDLEY Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) is on the hunt for nominations for its Volunteer of the Year awards recognising those who selflessly give their time to help others.

People are now being asked to put forward their favourite individual volunteers or group of volunteers who

have made a difference through their unpaid work in the community.

This year's awards have been inspired by the smash hit 1991 film, *The Commitments*, about a group of young musicians. Taking this theme, the promotional posters for the awards show a group of local volunteers.

Nominees must be unpaid and volunteer in the Dudley borough. The closing date for nominations is August 21 and the ceremony is on October 15. Forms can be picked up from libraries and Dudley Council Plus or downloaded from www.dudleycvs.org.uk. Or call Dudley CVS on (01384) 573381.

More homes to be created due to demand

DOZENS of empty council houses across Dudley will be revamped and brought back into use during the next 12 months.

Dudley Council says it wants to refurbish 90 properties to help meet the demand for homes from families.

It comes as bosses prepare to start work on a £1.3 million project to convert the former Ardal Lodge care home in Sedgley into new council homes.

Work will start next month to convert the building into six apartments, along with eight bungalows. The project is expected to be completed in March 2016.

Construction has also started to build homes on the sites of former council depots at The Walk in Sedgley and at Norfolk Road in Wollaston.

It is the next stage of a wider £40m scheme to build 300 properties over the next five years.

As well as building new homes, housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said the authority was committed to restoring properties which were lying empty after falling into a state of disrepair for various reasons.

"We have again set a target of bringing 90 empty homes back into use over the next year," she said. "Last year we exceeded this and will hope to achieve a similar figure this year as we look to make the most of the borough's housing stock."

Teenager found with stab wounds in street

A TEENAGER was taken to hospital after being found with stab wounds to his stomach in a Sedgley street.

Police were called to Beacon Lane at around 9pm on Friday night and the 17-year-old was then taken to hospital for treatment. The teenager's condition was said to be stable.

Anyone who witnessed the attack is urged to contact police on 101, or to call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Gove goes on warpath to cut out pomposity

JUSTICE Secretary Michael Gove has come in for a bit of stick over reports that he has banned civil servants from starting sentences with 'however' and using contractions such as 'doesn't' or 'can't'.

However – sorry, that one just slipped in – when it comes to some of the other terminology Mr Gove is trying to ban, then I'm right behind him. He wants mandarins to stop using 'impact' as a verb. He says they should avoid anything with a ring of pomposity.

It is high time somebody cracked down on the hateful, tortured language which still seems to be rife in the public sector.

'Signage' instead of signs, 'new builds' instead of new buildings. Lighting columns where there used to be street lamps, representations instead of objections. Public servants are there to serve the public, and that means speaking in the same language as the public. Not attempting to win Scrabble prizes.

And why do animal charities talk about 're-homing' strays? You don't re-home anything, you re-house it. Home is a noun, unless you are talking about pigeon racing.

Then, we have the dreadful expression 'on the go', which seems to be a favourite of anybody desperate to be perceived as dynamic and modern. According to a very annoying TV commercial doing the rounds at the moment, eating a cereal bar on your way to work constitutes 'break-fast on the go'.

Well, I'm sorry, but it doesn't. It might make you want to go, quite often I'm sure, but that is very different.

□□□□

I called into a well-known retailer in Walsall, arriving about 50 minutes before closing time. Shortly after, there was an announcement saying the ladies' changing rooms were soon to close. A few minutes later, it was repeated.

A little bit later, the public address system informed customers that the shop would be closing in 20 minutes, again repeated a short while later. The same happened again 15 minutes before closing.

Five minutes later, two separate members of staff asked me if I would mind making my way to the counter, as the store would be closing in 10 minutes.

What is it with these people? Look, I know these pesky customers are a pain, coming in the shop, mooching around and buying things. I know you would like to knock off early, without people queuing at the checkout, but it's what shops are for. How many times have we seen shop assistants locking the doors 10 minutes before closing time?

If a shop advertises itself as being open until 5.30pm, anybody who turns up at 5.29 should be allowed in without question. Needless to say, I made sure I made a point of hanging around until bang-on closing time.



Smethwick Toll House in High Street and its coach house



Langley Maltings in Oldbury, dating 1870, steeped in history



Heron Court in Rugeley, with its Tudor Gothic architecture

Taking stock of our crumbling heritage

People may be surprised to find many landmark buildings are on the at risk register.
ADAM BURLING reports

THEY have become familiar parts of the landscape to thousands of people who pass them every day.

But many may not realise that these historic buildings are among the country's most at risk sites.

Heritage campaigners have drawn up a list of buildings that they believe could end up knocked down or falling into disrepair if action is not taken.

And while some are instantly recognisable, others are less obvious. But they all form part of the Black Country and Staffordshire's rich heritage. The SAVE group, which is marking its 40th anniversary this year, is about to release its latest catalogue of at risk buildings. And English Heritage recently compiled a list of sites that are vulnerable to making way for developments.

Turnpike

Smethwick Toll House has been a fixture on the High Street since 1820 but it unlikely that the majority of shoppers or commuters pay it much attention each day. But it is among five sites in the West Midlands chosen by SAVE in its latest investigations.

The toll house and associated coach house is Grade II-listed and served the Birmingham, Dudley and Wolverhampton turnpike which was formed in 1760. The toll house and former coach house were most recently let as an art gallery, but have now been vacant for a number of years.

Meanwhile, Langley Maltings is steeped in the history of the Black Country's brewing industry. Originally dating from 1870, but substantially rebuilt in 1898, the Maltings are a well-known landmark in this part of Sandwell.

The site was built for the nearby Showell's Crosswell Brewery, with the 1898 buildings designed by Arthur Kinder & Son, notable brewery architects. Although the brewery changed hands several times, remarkably the maltings were still in use as late as 2006 and it



Wolverhampton's Church of St Leonard has leaking gutters causing damage to stonework

was one of the last to use the traditional floor malting process.

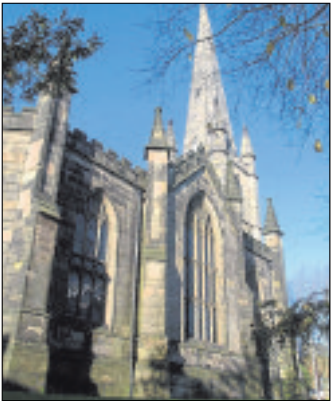
An arson attack in 2009 caused considerable damage to the buildings, but English Heritage concluded that 'despite some unstable masonry, repairing the building would be relatively straightforward'.

An application for demolition was submitted by the owner in 2012, but the council rejected the plans after an outcry from residents. Businessmen Lehmer Singh and Harbhajan Singh Dhadday, who run D&S Enterprises, bought the property for £1 million in 2007.

Mr Dhadday said they were still hoping to submit a planning application to build housing. In Staffordshire, Heron Court has been singled out as an example of Tudor Gothic architecture. The building, in Heron Street, Rugeley, was constructed in 1851 at the time that Rugeley was expanding from a market town to a coal mining centre.

It was used as a convent and more recently as the home of a billiards club.

The site is now up for sale and, while it is in relatively good condition, there are fears it will be difficult to find a new use for it that will keep its historic features.



Restoration - Top Church, Dudley High Street

Meanwhile English Heritage has named two well-known Dudley churches on its list of landmarks under threat. St Thomas and St Luke's Church in High Street, Dudley, known as Top Church, is a shock new addition to this year's Heritage at Risk register. St John's Church in Dudley is now also on the list.

A total of 195 sites across the Black Country, Staffordshire and North Worcestershire have now been identified as being at risk in the latest survey. Five new buildings in the area, all of them churches, have been added.

However, nine buildings have been removed after finding a more secure future. St Thomas and St Luke's Church is considered to be Dudley's premier church and is used for civic functions. The Grade II listed building, built between 1815 and 1818, is said to be in 'poor' condition.

Ten years ago £528,000 was spent restoring its spire. Meanwhile, St John's Church in St John Street closed in 2002 for safety reasons after structural problems were discovered.

Worcester Diocese, which owns the building, initially said it may be declared redundant and demolished. However, the St John's Church Preservation Group was formed in 2007 to

save the building, and it was granted Grade II-listed status in 2009.

William Perry, better known as The Tipton Slasher, who was England's bare-knuckle boxing champion from 1850 to 1857, and Marion Richardson, a well-known author of children's handwriting books, are among those buried in the churchyard. Other entries on the register include in Wolverhampton, St Luke's Church in Upper Villiers Street, said to be at severe risk as its condition is deteriorating rapidly, English Heritage says. It is described as in 'very bad' condition and as being 'of immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric'.

Built by GT Robinson of Leamington in 1860, the church's huge, decorated spire is a local landmark in the Blakenhall area. The problem of dry rot was addressed some years ago, but many other issues remain.

The city's Church of St Leonard, in Church Street, has leaking gutters that are damaging the stonework and causing water damage inside. It still has a number of original features from when it was built in 1825, but English Heritage says they could be lost if repairs are not carried out.

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Smart way to keep motorists to speed limit

IT is with great disappointment that I have noticed that drivers are continuing to speed through the 40mph limit on the A456 Hagley Road, between the Hayley Green roundabout and the Clent turn-off.

This stretch of road has had an extremely poor accident record and was voted the third most dangerous in the country.

The daughter of my old school friend

was killed here some time ago. It was his only child, and the shock and heart-break of this tragedy led to his early death in 2009, aged 48.

Although a pelican crossing has been introduced, any motorist who dares to keep to the speed limit, including myself, will find themselves being tailgated by aggressive, self-important drivers, sometimes complete with abuse.

I would suggest speed average cameras but they are both ugly and expensive. Why then, does the Government not insist on cars being fitted with

'Smart' limiters? The technology has existed for these for some time. They basically use a GPS (Global Positioning System) location to link in with Engine Management Units to limit speed to whatever the limit is on that particular stretch of road.

These are almost the holy grail of road safety, and a major manufacturer has already introduced this system as an 'optional extra' on one of its car models. They should not be just an option.

A BROOK
Halesowen

Bring back West Mids authority

MARK Andrews's column (June 11) may be heartfelt 'as a dyed-in-the-wool Black Country mon', but it's not enough to make a serious argument against the Combined Authority idea. Squabbling about Greater Birmingham ignores the serious problem of being left behind by London.

Although he dismisses the West Midlands County Council as "unlamented", there is a case for its revival. Until they were abolished by the Thatcher Government in 1986 they were elected and were big enough to have a strategic role. To return to shire counties, as Mark Andrews suggests, fails to recognise the shire-metropolitan distinction.

If London is to be challenged as the engine-room of the economy, we will need to focus on city-regions. The metropolitan county councils recognised this whilst providing democratic accountability.

JOHN PÄYNE
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Referendum would resolve mosque issue

I ATTENDED the Dudley Central Mosque exhibition and I have to disagree with your report. The exhibition did not show defiance by all the people present to the anti-mosque protest marches, in fact, there were many present who supported them. The people in the marches have the right to protest against the proposed mosque.

As a resident in Dudley I have sympathy for the market traders but the council and police could avoid much of the disruption if the marches were directed from the Hippodrome car park, up Castle Hill, left at Tower Street, past the Town Hall to demonstrate and return via Ednam Road. The 30,000-plus who signed petitions showed their rejection of the mosque, the location being inappropriate with no relationship to Dudley's heritage or historical architecture. The structure would be an 'eyesore', too imposing, and adverse to the multiculturalism in Dudley. The council have a duty to comply with the Government's localism bill and within 'community empowerment' it states the Government is committed to give residents the power to instigate local referendums on any local issue - this would finally settle the mosque outcome.

A PAGE
Dudley

I yam what I yam, not Brummie

I am in full agreement with N D Caddick of Coseley about keeping our roots in the Black Country.

Myself and many others in the Black Country do not want to become part of Birmingham or its poor relation, as will happen if Birmingham has a say.

I was born and bred in Smethwick but have lived in Halesowen for 18 years, and have always considered myself Black Country not a Birminghamite. When on holidays sometimes people have said 'I can tell you are from Birmingham'. I get very angry and tell them I am Black Country NOT A BRUMMY - and very proud of it.

I would like to say to all MPs and councillors, leave the Black Country alone, we are very proud of our history. Anyone who has a yearning to belong to Birmingham can go and live there. We Ay Brummies! We yam Black Country folk
MRS J GARFIELD
Halesowen

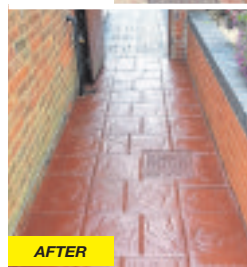
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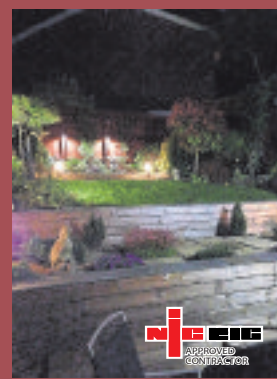
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Pupils are crammed in as class sizes continue to grow

MANY Sandwell pupils are suffering in class sizes bigger than the statutory limit of 30 schoolchildren, new figures have revealed.

Sandwell and Wolverhampton councils have been identified as among the worst in the country for oversized KS1 classes, with 18.2 per cent of Wolverhampton schools being over the legal limit and 15.9 per cent in Sandwell. The shocking figures have been revealed in the 2015 school census.

Hi-de-Hi star's message to cast of play

A STAR of classic comedy Hi-de-Hi! has wished an amateur group luck as they stage a version of the popular show.

Performing arts theatre Oldbury Rep will stage an adaptation of the popular holiday camp-set series by Jimmy Perry and David Croft.

Founder Joe Maplin announces that he is setting up a camp in the Bahamas. He needs female Yellowcoats and rivalry between the girls is fierce. Camp cleaner, Peggy, is thrilled at the prospect of a Yellowcoat vacancy. Meanwhile comedian Ted is forced into money-making schemes when his ex-wife turns up with a bailiff in tow.

Walsall-born Jeffrey Holland, Spike in the original series, sent this message to Oldbury Rep: "May I wish all the Hi-de-Hi company the very best of Maplin's luck for the run of your show. I hope you have as much fun doing it as we did doing the original."

The production runs from July 4 to 11.

Teachers union bosses have described the statistics as 'extremely worrying' and have called on the Government to assist local authorities in creating new school places.

Four schools across Sandwell are in the top 10 list of schools with the largest average KS1 classes: Sacred Heart Primary in Tipton, Annie Lennard Infant School, Lightwoods Primary and Old Hill Primary, all with average class sizes of 31.

NUT branch secretary Martin Lynch, said: "We are concerned whenever classes even approach 30 pupils. The attention each child gets is compromised as classes get larger." Earlier this year the Local Government Association revealed that by 2017 there would not be enough reception places for youngsters in Sandwell and Wolverhampton. Sandwell is also attempting to cater for increased numbers of pupils.

Six new classes are being built at Holy Trinity Primary in West Bromwich, with the number of pupils attending the school expected to increase by nearly 22 per cent in September, from 396 to 479. Plans have been submitted for eight extra classrooms at Greenholm Primary School in Great Barr, where an extra 180 pupils are expected to join for 2015/16.

And Abbey Infant School in Smethwick and Yew Tree Primary School are set to be rebuilt.

Homeboy Pulis gets baggy with it



West Brom boss Tony Pulis stars in a fan's rap, which contains many of the manager's famous phrases

JAY Z, Kanye West and now, erm, Tony Pulis? The West Brom boss has become an unlikely rap star thanks to a supporter who has mocked up a video online.

Die-hard Baggies fan Harry Houghton has become an online sensation thanks to his Tony Pulis Motivational Rap, which was made by compiling snippets of the boss's most well-worn phrases.

Harry's video has so far racked up more than 3,000 views on YouTube and has proved popular on club fan

sites. The 29-year-old audio technician, a season ticket holder in the Birmingham Road End, spent hours trawling through press conferences and made the backing track himself.

The rap focuses heavily on some of the most famous 'Pulisisms', with which Albion fans are well-versed.

The phrase 'worked hard, very hard' is repeated numerous times during the three-minute spoof, as well as other Pulis favourites such as 'together' and 'play to your strengths'.

Pulis has divided opinion among

the Baggies faithful since becoming manager at the start of this year and is often derided for the style of football his teams play, but Harry insists the video is a tribute to the boss, rather than mockery.

"I'm certainly not having a dig," said Harry, who hails from Nottingham but got the West Brom bug through family who live in the Black Country.

"I am a massive West Brom fan and he has done a sterling job in my opinion." The video took around eight hours to put together in total.

Taskforce is set up over mutilations

A NEW taskforce, the first of its kind in the West Midlands, has been launched aiming to end the illegal practice of female genital mutilation.

Officials gathered at Sandwell Council House to announce plans of a new bid to eradicate the practice and protect young girls and women.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel announced the regional task force that will work to better co-ordination of agencies.

Police, councils and the office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson came together to make the pledge last week. A report commissioned by the police and crime panel says much is going on across the region to tackle FGM.

But different areas and organisations are at different places to deal with this form of child abuse.

Nine recommendations and five key steps have been made by the report which included recommending creating the new taskforce.

The report says: "We call upon all relevant authorities, including those involved in law enforcement, the justice system and public health, to do everything in their power to protect young girls from this life-endangering, health-threatening crime. We also call for appropriate support for women and girls who are victims."

Gallery swinging in with 1960s nostalgia

A 'BOSTIN' 60s quiz' night will take place at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery on July 9. Tickets cost just £4 a person and include a fish and chip supper.

They can be pre-booked by calling the museum on 0121 556 0683 or in person. Doors open at 7pm and the quiz starts at 7.30pm. Visitors can also find out on the night how they can get involved with a project to develop a new 1960s themed exhibition.

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Team leader Geoff riding high on reaching Paris

EX-WOLVES star Geoff Thomas has been resting up this week after he and his 200-strong team of riders successfully completed their 310-mile cycling challenge to Paris.

An emotional Geoff was glad to sip a well-deserved glass of beer after an epic four-day cycle ride that raised a staggering £500,000 arriving in the French capital on Sunday afternoon.

The riders had set off from Greenwich Park, in London on Thursday and among the team were Baggies keeper Ben Foster and Wolves club photographer Sam Bagnall.

Also taking part were England under-20s coach Aidy Boothroyd, former Crystal Palace winger John Salako, ex-Birmingham City defender Darren Purse and Gary Lineker's son George, also a leukaemia survivor.

Geoff was also joined by his daughters Madison and Georgia, and his wife Julie.

Tears

The team cycled around 80 miles a day over the course of the challenge.

Speaking in Paris after completing the ride, Geoff Thomas said: "These four days have been absolutely fabulous. Since my illness, I can't produce tears and I was grateful for that at the finish because I would have been a blubbing mess."

"Riding with my family, I really started to fill up at the end. I'm so proud of these three girls. They've been with me all the way through my battle and they've done fantastic."

He also paid tribute to his fellow riders who have been helping to raise £1million for Cure Leukaemia with the London 2 Paris and the upcoming Le Tour - One Day Ahead, which will



Geoff celebrates getting to Paris with cycling companion Baggies goalie Ben Foster see a select group of fundraisers tackle the Tour de France route just 24 hours before the real race.

Geoff said of the London to Paris ride: "All of these people have been raising funds for Professor Charlie Craddock, which will bring new hope to leukaemia patients."

"So effectively there's already thousands that have been helped by the money they've raised."

He added: "If we can build on it, and keep beating that drum, we'll try and eradicate this disease because there

are some great people that we're funding."

As the riders were pictured celebrating in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower, the L2Prevolution Twitter account tweeted, "The L2P party is in full swing beneath the #EiffelTower-Paris", while Ben Foster was also pictured toasting his arrival.

Riders also took to Twitter to voice their delight at finish the mammoth challenge.

George Lineker tweeted: "No idea how I did it but I'm buzzing!"

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Chief Constable steps down after six years



'It's been a fantastic privilege' — West Midlands Police Chief Constable Chris Sims is retiring after 30 years service

THE top police officer in the West Midlands is to step down after six years in the post. Chief Constable Chris Sims will retire aged 56 early next year.

He has held the role since June 2009 and had previously been Assistant Chief Constable for West Midlands Police and Chief Constable at Staffordshire Police.

He said: "It's been a fantastic privilege to lead this force through six challenging years. I will use the remaining time I have to make sure the transition to the next Chief Constable is as smooth as possible and that we don't take any break on our journey to being the best force in the country."

The announcement comes as Mr Sims outlines a programme to overhaul how the force operates by 2020. He had raised concerns that the police could face more cuts on top of planned savings of £120 million over four years.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson will now begin the process of choosing a replacement. He said: "Chris Sims is an outstanding Chief Constable who has served the West Midlands with distinction."

New head of canals group is appointed

THE Canal & River Trust, has appointed a new waterway manager to look after Black Country and Birmingham canals.

The charity, which cares for the 2,000 miles of canals and rivers in England and Wales has given the job to Ian Lane after he spent eight months as acting waterway manager.

Mr Lane has a wealth of experience caring for the region's historic waterways having worked as principal engineer for the last 11 years. He will be responsible for looking after the day-to-day operations of the canals from Leamington Spa to Great Haywood and Stourport to Fazeley.



Canals chief — Ian Lane

"This includes working with boaters, waterside communities, and the many clubs and organisations to ensure the waterways continue to improve."

Ian, said: "I'm really lucky to have such a wonderful place to work and I'm relishing the challenge of raising the trust's profile and people's perceptions of canals and ensuring the waterways continue to be a great place to visit and live along."

Peter Mathews, chairman of the West Midlands Wa-

terways Partnership, said: "Ian has done a brilliant job these last few months keeping the waterways running smoothly. The canals in Birmingham and the Black Country are some of the most popular in the country and, under Ian's guidance, with help and advice from the partnership, they will continue to be even better places to visit."

Picture



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Face to face with the men who made a classic

ONE of Ziggy Stardust's Spiders from Mars is joining forces with rock producer Tony Visconti to pay tribute to David Bowie's early career at a concert in Birmingham.

Guest singers including Marc Almond and Heaven 17's Glenn Gregory will be joining drummer Woody Woodmansey's group Holy Holy to perform in full Bowie's The Man Who Sold The World album, recorded 45 years ago, at the O2 Academy on Monday.

New Yorker Visconti, who has worked with Bowie intermittently from his breakthrough album Space Oddity in 1969 until 2013's comeback The Next Day, said: "One reason I'm looking forward to playing The Man Who Sold The World album in its entirety again is because lots of people ask me if I still play bass. I do but I've since rarely played anything as ambitious and demanding as the music of that great batch of songs conceived by David Bowie."

"Eventually the album sold a million or two. A great homage to us was to hear Nirvana perform the title track unplugged in the '90s on an MTV special, note for note. A lot of people still believe that Kurt Cobain wrote it."

Visconti is also famous for recordings with T. Rex and in more recent years recorded Morrissey and Kaiser Chiefs. Also performing will be singer Lisa Ronson, daughter of late Spiders from Mars guitarist Mick Ronson, top session guitarist Paul Cuddeford and former Chelsea and Gene Loves Jezebel guitarist James Stevenson.

After playing The Man Who Sold The World album in full, the band will go on to play many of Bowie's greatest songs from the 1969 to '73 era, including Ziggy Stardust and, Woody Woodmansey's signature tune on drums, Five Years.



Tony Visconti played bass on the album



Bowie drummer Woody Woodmansey



Special guest Marc Almond will be singing Bowie classics in Birmingham

Yorkshire rocker Woodmansey, who also drummed on The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars, Hunky Dory and Aladdin Sane, said: "When we recorded TMWSTW album with David Bowie and Mick Ronson we were all looking forward to presenting it to audiences in a live situation as we felt it would be exciting for us and them. This never came to

pass until September last year. From the first song in rehearsals, Width Of A Circle, it was obvious that we were right about our earlier excitement. Each song had its own special magic, as Bowie songs do. We stayed true to the spirit and essence of the songs whilst adding a contemporary edge."

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Teenagers should have a say on EU



DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

A MAJORITY of MPs voted against giving 16 and 17-year-olds a say in the EU Referendum and I'm struggling to understand why.

This might be a last flash of youthful angst, the dying embers of aspiration or, as The Who might have put it, a teenage wasteland.

But I really don't see why 308 MPs, a majority of 41 who took part, thought that the under 18s did not deserve a shot at shaping the country they are going to have to spend (for most of them) the rest of their lives in.

The slightly surly argument is that before the age of 18 people can have sex, get married, join the army and learn to drive – all of which are things that result in either the creation of life or the responsibility of bearing the risk of ending someone's.

Restrict

This falls down a little, of course. For a start, soldiers must be 18 to actually go to war. And marriage can only happen earlier than that with the permission of parents.

We could start listing all the other things the under 18s can't do as well – buy alcohol, cigarettes, fireworks and so on – and give that as a reason not to extend the vote.

And we could use the argument that turnout among young people, particularly the 18 to 24 age group, is already pitifully low when it comes to elections.



City MP Pat McFadden

But the independence referendum isn't an election. I find myself in agreement with the Labour MP for Wolverhampton South East, Pat McFadden, the party's shadow Europe minister. He said: "If we are to leave and as a result of that we decide that we're going to restrict the rights of other European citizens to come to live and work in the UK then be sure there will be reciprocal action taken against young people from the United Kingdom."

"So the rights that British citizens currently enjoy because we are part of the European Union, to live, work and study throughout the rest of the European Union are directly at stake in this referendum."

"And I believe that's a very strong reason, even setting aside the general debate about the rights of 16 and



Labour's Barry Sheerman

17-year-olds to vote in elections as a whole, for giving those citizens the right to vote in this referendum.

"Their future is directly at stake."

On the subject of the EU Referendum Bill and the 'yoo' vote, Pat McFadden had to respond to perhaps the most bonkers argument ever for denying it to under 18s.

Labour's Barry Sheerman, MP for Huddersfield, said letting 16 and 17-year-olds vote would 'shrink childhood' and even added: "The move to have adults at 16 will make a lot of young men and women more vulnerable to sexual predation."

Mr McFadden replied: "All I would say to you is maturity is not an exact science." Neither, it seems in Mr Sheerman's case, is saying things in Parliament that aren't a bit bonkers.

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Peat faeries and their fused folk

CD REVIEWS

by Danny Farragher

Peatbog Faeries Blackhouse
PEATBOG Faeries are seriously pushing the limits of what could be called folk music.

The band fuse traditional Scottish/Celtic sounds with ambient, electro, dance and rock strands – a lot of which are produced by Ross Couper.

There are a few folk bands which do this merging of modern music strands but fiercely Scottish Peatbog Faeries often seem to do it without really blurring the lines between the styles and in doing so it can feel rather shunted together.

You can't fault their playing on the traditional side with Peter Morrison's superb pipe and whistle playing alongside Couper's fiddle work but the problem is you can hear the joins.

It's like all these modern synth sounds are bolted on and badly welded together. If you're a fan of the Peatbogs then it's more than likely not a problem, but if you were expecting Celtic folk music on their seventh studio album, then from the first track, *Is This Your Son?*, you could easily think they put the wrong disc in the sleeve.

Jakes On A Plane is one of the more subtle blends however, *Tom In Front* is a perfect example of when it doesn't quite fit together, the band open the track with an ambient voice then launch into traditional pipes and fiddle and it's easy to think well why start it like that?

The Scottish sounds are good enough and the synth intro doesn't really add anything.

Blackhouse is out now on Peatbog Records



Scottish outfit The Peatbog Faeries have a new album, *Blackhouse*

Barrule Manannan's Cloak
If you want people to sit up and take notice of your album then you need an opening track which comes out with all barrels blattering much like *The Wheel of Fire* on *Isle of Man* trio Barrule's new CD.

And if this is the kind of music which emanates from the IoM then the world needs more Manx music.

It may sound simplistic but because of it's geographical position in the Irish Sea it seems Barrule are channeling the music which the island has absorbed like a sponge from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales as well being undergirded, of course, by the native Manx traditions and culture.

This album is both died-in-the-wool traditional while at the same time sounding incredibly new and fresh.

Tomas Callister and Jamie Smith launch straight in setting down their flag on the tenor banjo and accordion respectively.

There are some great, fast-paced jigs and reels. *Manannan's Cloak* is out now on Easy on the Records label.

Peter Knight's Gigspanner Layers of Ages

There has almost been musical fracking within the traditional folk realm. There are bands now who are folk rock, alternative folk, indie folk, goth folk, jazz folk, the permutations and fusions seem to be multiplying by the week.

Into this melting pot comes Peter Knight's *Gigspanner* bringing with it something of an oasis where traditionalists can rest their weary ears and indulge in some fantastic sounds which are clearly rooted in the traditional but do, to keep the eclectic juices flowing, throw in the odd curve ball.

Former *Steeleye Span* member Peter Knight with Roger Flack and Vincent Salzaas have got the balance spot on. They have kept the core of their music traditional but have fused sympathetic and harmonious strands to it.

The Bows of London brings a dark tale. The light tone and Knight's gentle singing belies the macabre subjects.

Just by the first track you know this album is something special.

A standing ovation for Broadway belter Idina

Idina Menzel, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
BROADWAY'S brightest star opened her UK tour in Birmingham and it was such a priceless night for Midlands musical theatre fans that their standing ovation at the end of her non-stop 110 minute concert showed they didn't want to Let It Go.

The 44-year-old star of *Rent* and *Wicked*, best known as the voice of Elsa in Disney's *Frozen*, showed plenty of chutzpah by opening with her second most popular song, *Wicked's* *Defying Gravity*, most familiar of a slew of empowerment anthems that the 21st century equivalent to Streisand has made her own.

Between the beltiers her banter showed impish good humour and she apologised for occasional earthy language, and besides the big musical numbers she threw a few surprise curve balls, such as an impassioned version of Radiohead's *Creep* and a mash up of Cole Porter's *Love For Sale* with *The Police's* *Roxanne*. Her own songs such as *Brave* and *I Stand*, co-written with Glen Ballard, held up beside the classics too.

The highlights were *Take Me Or Leave Me*, from cult musical *Rent*, in which she shared the mic with several willing young singers from the audience, all of whom did themselves proud, also a tear-jerking a cappella version of *For Good* and the inevitable, triumphant sing-along-Idina version of *Let It Go*.



Witches from a royal nightmare in new ballet *The King Dances* Picture: Bill Cooper

Fortuna favours a brave and still thrilling ballet

The King Dances, Carmina burana, Birmingham Hippodrome

A SEASON of performances marking David Bintley's 20th anniversary as director of Birmingham Royal Ballet began with a double bill pairing his latest work with his first creation for the company.

Both the world premiere performance of *The King Dances* and the revival of his calling card at Birmingham, *Carmina burana*, were spectacular and dramatic, though it was the 1995 ballet danced to Carl Orff's stirring music that got the standing ovation.

The King Dances is inspired by an episode that gave birth to ballet when, in 1653, the teenage King Louis XIV of France danced the role of Apollo in *Le Ballet de la Nuit* at the Louvre Palace in Paris.

Le Ballet de la Nuit was rumoured to have lasted 12 hours but Bintley's ballet comes in at a more reasonable 35 minutes. This atmospherically lit piece, in which almost all the roles are danced by men as was the custom then, begins with flaming torches brought on stage by royal retainers.

REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

William Bracewell deserved the limelight for his graceful and suitably regal portrayal of the young ruler, especially as he wooed the Moon, a superb performance from Yi-jing Zhang in the only female role.

The most impressive scene was when the King's dream-like adventure turned to nightmare, as the midnight rambling monarch is jostled, pawed and hauled around by a pack of demons, werewolves and long-haired wraiths.

Carmina burana was a feast for the eyes and the ears from the moment soloist Celine Gittens seized the audience's attention with her clockwork precision as a sexy but menacing Fortuna to that electrifying piece of music that has become familiar from TV, film and even football stadiums.

Bintley's version of *Sylvia* will be staged at the Hippodrome until June 27.

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MAJOR CHANGES AT GYMOPHOBICS

HALESOWEN BRINGS SLIMMERS FLOCKING IN!



It is just six months since Andrea Withers took over the Gymophobics franchise in Halesowen but the changes she has introduced has seen membership grow at an incredible rate.

Andrea trained as a Gymophobics Instructor at their National Training Academy in Stafford before starting work at Halesowen and never dreamt that she would one day become a proud Franchise owner, but when the opportunity to buy the Halesowen franchise became available she jumped at the opportunity.

Since then Andrea has instigated a major transformation. A complete refurbishment is only part of the story. Andrea explains : *"I wanted to make*

it a really relaxing and feminine environment, somewhere that my ladies would enjoy spending a little 'Me' time. Although it takes just 30 minutes to complete each session using our unique 'Air' machines we don't encourage ladies to rush off. Most will stay for a coffee and a chat as it has become a really friendly and social environment".

Andrea is buzzing with ideas to make her Centre a one stop shop for slimmers as well as those just wanting to tone up.

"I have introduced weekly slimming club sessions to run alongside the personal diet and exercise prescription that we offer. Our new healthy eating plan is a huge success, allowing ladies to eat foods that were previously banned, such as butter, eggs, bacon, etc. and most ladies are losing a dress size in the first few weeks".

Gymophobics success is built on providing members with VIP attention on every visit and a personal programme takes their age, weight and physical condition into account.

Programmes are reviewed every three weeks to ensure that results are being achieved and a 15 minute home exercise routine is also prescribed for the days between their visits if members wish. With this amount of attention it is no wonder that results are so spectacular.

Andrea's message is clear : "To any lady with concerns about her weight or fitness I would say, 'Don't be shy. Come along and see us. You will love the support. You will love the friendly environment. Most of all you will love the results!'"



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Her Majesty The Queen on a visit to Wolves Molineux ground in 1962



A Warners promotional film from 1965



West Midlands band Kansas Hook in a 1970 promotional film



Princess Margaret visits Telford in 1970



One of the salvaged archive pictures showing progress with a purpose in 1964

Archive footage saved thanks to Lottery grant

HOURS of archive film footage showing Wolverhampton life from the 50s to the 70s have been rescued from the brink of extinction thanks to a lottery funded preservation project.

The footage, shot by production company Warners, includes the Queen's visit to the town in May 1962 and a military parade by the South Staffordshire Regiment in the same year.

A 1961 Black Country travelogue, a promotional film for the West Midlands band Kansas Hook shot in 1970, and even News Travels Fast - a day in the life of the Express & Star, filmed in 1960 are also featured.

Wolverhampton City Archives in partnership with the Media Archive for Central England (Mace) has carried out the work to preserve the film records, which were at risk of becoming unusable due to vinegar syndrome, which causes film to decay.

More than 50 different recordings have now been digitised and reconstructed and archive volunteers have

MEMORY LANE

By Jordan Harris

been researching the backgrounds of some of the people and companies featured in the collection.

For Sallie Birtwistle, who grew up in Penn, the project has brought back memories of the happiest day of her life. She was contacted by Mace and told that the video document of her wedding day had been restored.

Sallie, now 73 and living in Nantwich, Cheshire, had never seen the video of her happy day, which was held at Christ Church in Tettenhall Wood on July 31, 1965.

She said being able to see her late husband Richard and all of their friends and family again was 'the best thing to happen to me all year'.

She said: "It was absolutely wonderful to watch the day back."

"What is particularly great about this for me is that my grandchildren can see all of these people who they have only had access to before through still images. It would have been great

for Richard to see it." The results of the project are now on display until August 5 at an exhibition called Rescuing Warners, held at Wolverhampton City Archives on Whitmore Hill.

Mace senior curator and member Phil Leach said: "A lot of these films haven't been seen for around 40 or 50 years. It has taken a lot of hard work to get the films to this stage and everyone has done a great job."

Founded by Matthew Richard Warner as a chemist, Warners, was based in Chapel Ash from at least 1901, and by 1915 also had a branch on Stafford Road. It branched out into photographic supplies in the 1920s, and by 1955 M R Warner & Son Ltd was advertising itself as a photographic, cine and visual aid specialist. It was the official photographer for the council in 1960.

In the 1960s it also operated a large department for commercial photography, producing promotional films for local industries, and still had a presence in Chapel Ash into the 1980s. The films were donated to Wolverhampton archives by representatives of Warners in 1992.



An old Wolverhampton film footage on BBC Tonight



Senior Mace curator Philip Leach with one of the old Warners films that has been rescued

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Derry's usual suspects have nothing to prove

By Danny Farragher

THE one thing you can never do where musician Derry Jones is concerned is question his dedication to his music.

The singer/songwriter, originally from Halesowen, works full time as a marketing co-ordinator and, with his wife Debby, from Penn, Wolverhampton runs The Woodman Folk Club, Kingswinford.

If this wasn't enough he is also part of a four piece band, Nothing to Prove, who are just about to release their second album.

In between all this he has managed, with his fellow band members, Debby, Paul Bedingfield and Rob O'Dell, to produce the album which has been several years in the making not least because the band was hit by a sad loss.

"The album is called Unusual Suspects and although it's our second album it's a first with new mandolin player Rob," explains Jones

Illness

O'Dell was brought in when original band member Trevor Durden sadly died in 2010 after a long illness. Not surprisingly this caused the album to be delayed and it was only about three years ago that the impetus to put the album together was gained again.

"We decided to kick-start the album again but had to give Rob time to learn all the new stuff and we were still writing material at that point as well. Fortunately with the songs we already have and ones we have continued to write hopefully the next album will be along quicker."

"Ironically it's been a bit of a rush to get it finished for our deadline date because we are going to showcase it at The Woodman on July 3. I write songs and so does Paul and with the 12 tracks we have a sort of half and half mix, there some covers but there are half a dozen of our songs as well."

Nothing To Prove have been together for 15 years since they met at Bridgnorth Folk Festival and their debut album Open Verdict came out a couple of years later.

So what can people expect to hear on the album?

"They are all songs that people will



Derry and Debby Jones — one half of the band Nothing To Prove

know because we have performed them live at festivals and at the club. So this album is a collection of those songs which people will be familiar with."

"We don't take ourselves seriously hence the name Nothing To Prove, it's not us being big headed, it's that we are doing it for a laugh, for enjoyment and that's it. There is a song on there called Folk Festival Virgin which is about going to a festival for the very

first time. There is humour on there and there are a couple of seafaring songs. This album has grown with us and we have grown with it, it's been good fun. We are looking forward to launching it," he added.

Nothing To Prove will be launching Unusual Suspects on July 3 at The Woodman Folk Club, Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford from 8.30pm. Entry is £4 for members and £5 for non members.

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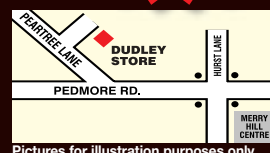
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Goodbye and good luck to Year 6 as you move onto high school

"Best time I've ever had."



"Fun educational and great."

"Really enjoyable and made lots of friends."

Dear Year 6, as a year group you have been exemplary throughout, showing enthusiasm and a willingness to listen and learn. This has helped you to make great strides in your education and prepare you for high school. The staff, governors, parents and pupils wish you all the best for the future.

"It's a good experience, enjoyable and I've got good memories."

"Enjoyable and everyone is like a family."



"I liked Astley Burf we did lots of activities."

"The school is amazing in every possible way."

Hurst Green Primary School, Narrow Lane, Halesowen B62 9NZ | Tel: 01384 818210 Email: info@hurst-green.dudley.sch.uk | Website: www.hurstgreen.dudley.sch.uk

Good Luck Year Six



You have been an absolute pleasure to have at Olive Hill and we will miss you all greatly.

Thank you for all of your hard work and consistently displaying a fantastic attitude towards your learning. You have been excellent role models to the younger children and you are a true credit to us and your families.

*We wish you all the best of luck at your new secondary schools.
From the staff, children, governors and parents of Olive Hill Primary School.*



Olive Hill Primary School
Cherry Class 2015



Photography by
Helen Williams

Springfield Road, Halesowen B62 8JZ Tel: 01384 818855 Fax: 01384 818859 email: info@olive.dudley.sch.uk www.olive.dudley.sch.uk Headteacher Mrs R. Cutting



Caslon's Year Six

Year six, you've been amazing,
Year six, you've been the best -
I can't believe how well you've performed
In every single test!

Your attitude has been so great,
You've really raised the bar.
The progress you've made is outstanding -
In the future you'll all go far.

So, at Caslon School, we thank you
For learning every day.
We'll always remember our Year six
Who are special in every way.

Whether you're kind and helpful,
Or whether you're outgoing and loud,
Whether you're quiet and timid,
You have really made us proud.

As you leave for Secondary school,
We wish you luck in all that you do.
Believe in yourselves and hold your heads high
As you venture to pastures new.

**GOOD LUCK, CASLON'S YEAR SIX
- WE WILL MISS YOU!**

Love from Mrs Williams (Class teacher) and
everyone at Caslon!







Tenterfields Primary School

Wishing our Year 6 children the best of luck when they continue their journeys next year at high school. They have been superb this year and will be greatly missed. A huge congratulations to them all for everything they have achieved whilst at Tenterfields. Good luck!



If you would like to book an appointment to look round our wonderful school, please contact Mrs Rhian Welsh Acting Headteacher, on 01384 818560
Further details on our school website www.tenterfieldsprimary.co.uk



Congratulations to all Year 6 pupils

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The Headteacher and all staff, together with the Governing Body of Manor Way Primary School, wish all Year 6 pupils the very best of luck and every success for the future at high school.



Moving to high school will be another step along the life-long learning path. Do let us know about your achievements and keep working hard.

We will miss you!

Manor Way Primary School, Brier Mill Road, Halesowen, West Midlands. B63 3HA | Email: information@manor.dudley.sch.uk | Website: www.manorway.net | Headteacher: Mrs Dawn Betteridge



COLLEY LANE Primary School

WOW! It is unbelievable to think that our extraordinary experience at Colley Lane is nearly over! Every single moment here has been something to remember and every single pupil will cherish their time here. "I will miss my year group and the fun that we had together!" quoted Ceecee Beechey. Despite the saddening thought of us leaving, we will treasure the moment when we first walked in and we will treasure the memories we made along the way. By Lauren Morby, Sofia Hussain and Jaspal Bhogal

Year 6, as we draw closer to the time to say goodbye, all of the staff would like to wish you lots of luck and best wishes for the future. You have had a brilliant year and we hope you are all leaving Colley Lane with lovely memories. We are very proud of each and every one of your achievements and look forward to hearing about your continued success as your move on to High School. Goodbye, year 6! Mrs G. Oakley.



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Shahidur is the founder of both Raj Spice and the Blue Spice restaurants located in Blackheath and Halesowen.

Mr Rahman has once again been awarded Curry Chef of the Year having previously received the award 2012 -2013, 2010 – 2011, and also won the British Fusion Chef of the year in 2007, 2008, and 2009 so he knows a thing or two about Asian cooking.

Honoured

Shahidur has also been honoured by the President of Bangladesh after representing UK curry cuisine at the Taste of Britain Festival in Dhaka. He met President Zillur Rahman in his private rooms at Bangabhaban Presidential Palace.



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Blooming great effort as the town grows for gold

Halesowen folk united by effort to ensure town has success in the Heart of England In Bloom prize

HALESOWEN really is in bloom with organisers declaring they are 'growing for gold' as the annual competition gets into full swing.

After winning a silver gilt last year, Halesowen in Bloom organisers are hoping to go one better this year when judges visit on July 15.

The campaign has seen gardens, buildings and shop fronts around the town transformed by colourful flowers as the community comes together to make it a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

The In Bloom theme is Green Streets Better Lives and the assessment is not just about floral displays, the judges mark 50 categories including horticulture, environment and community activities.

Following the judging there will be a tea party to enable the judges to meet Halesowen's many volunteers and supporters who have helped bring the project together.

Among the activities that have been taking place is a partnership between Halesowen CE School and the Black Country Bee Society to provide new hives at a site which is a safe distance from the school.

Seeds for wild flowers have been planted on Earls Island where five beech trees have also been planted by Sandvick to commemorate the company's 100 years in the UK.

The residents of Halas Homes have provided bird boxes and bug homes on their site.

A family treasure hunt is planned in association with Halesowen Library.



Helping Halesowen bloom — pupil Abigail Moore, aged 10, with Chairman of Halesowen in Bloom Eve O'Connor, and schoolgirl Georgie Lowe, 8, with beekeeping Verger at St John's Church Ken Rudge, and front, schoolboys Ramah Yafaicio and Liam Coffield

Students with learning difficulties and disabilities at Halesowen College have also provided a special large planter with flowers outside St John's Church.

Eve O'Connor, chairman of Halesowen in Bloom, said: "We are currently growing for gold. We've got hundreds of volunteers and community groups working on a range of different pro-

jects across the town, including painting and weeding. Everyone is working to get the town in tip-top shape ahead of the judges' arrival.

"The Cornbow Quilters have made a quilt for Halesowen in Bloom which the judges will be looking at and the Halas Home choir will be singing for them," she added.

The campaign has benefited from many

kind-hearted actions, despite suffering a small blow due to a theft earlier in the year.

A printing firm based in the town came to rescue when thieves stole £300 of plants in April. Bosses from Colour Cubed quickly stepped in to help organisers bounce back.

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Warm up with the Dancing Grannies

The hip-op dance seniors caused a sensation on the internet and now they are coming to Halesowen

INTERNET sensations the Dancing Grannies, as played by comedy troupe The Fizzogs, will host the warm-up session for this year's Black Country Run.

Organised by the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club with Halesowen Athletics Association, the run will take place on Sunday, July 5, as part of the Black Country Festival.

The Fizzogs, who became famous when their Dancing Grannies at Stourbridge Carnival went viral on the internet, will be helping runners to limber up for the 10k route, which sets off from Somers Square, Halesowen.

Runners taking part when it starts at 9am will be invited to join the Fizzogs-led warm-up and dance their way into the run, which Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho, will be starting, before he himself joins the mayoress in the 5k run at 11am.

Humour

Steve Edwards, chairman of the Black Country Festival, said: "The Fizzogs really demonstrate their brilliant sense of humour in a way that is enjoyable and entertaining for people of all ages. By asking them to come in and warm up the runners will hopefully get people laughing their way at the start and the finish line."

Following the race in Halesowen, the mayor and mayoress will head for Stourbridge Carnival where the Black Country Festival continues.



Deb Nicholls, Jacky Fellows and Sue Hawkins with race organiser Alan Bowler

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Flying the flag for Black Country Day

Halesowen will be at the very heart of celebrations to mark the fun-packed Black Country Festival

IS it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's the Black Country's very own superhero.

Black Country Mon is launching this year's Black Country Festival, getting under way next weekend.

The mascot will be flying in to community events at the month-long festival created to celebrate Black Country Day on July 14.

Thousands of people got involved with the inaugural celebrations last year and now organisers are calling for people to get their Black Country flags on display in readiness for its return during July and August.

The black, white and red flag with its chain motif will be flying from landmark locations across the four Black Country boroughs.

Carnival

The return of Halesowen Carnival after 30 years will really get the festivities going at Highfields Park on Saturday, July 4, with lots of live music, stalls and a tribute to Halesowen comedy legend Tommy Mundon

The Black Country Run, both 10k and 5k, sets off from Somers Square in Halesowen during the morning of Sunday, July 5, then thousands are anticipated to continue the festivities at Stourbridge Carnival with is celebrating 'Stourbridge Through the Ages'.

Dudley Zoo is be joining in the fun by teaching Charlie, a blue and gold macaw to speak in Black Country dialect.

One of the other main events of the festival will be held in Stone Street, Dudley on July 11.



Black Country Mon at Dudley Castle with Black Country Day organisers Steve Edwards, Councillor Pete Lowe, Billy Spakemon and James Stevens

FURNITURE EMPORIUM

Grand Opening In Halesowen

Furniture Emporium are promoting their grand opening this weekend.

Sam the owner of Furniture Emporium has over 40 years experience in the furniture industry. He has had shops in Bilston and Wolverhampton and is finding his new business in Halesowen very rewarding, he says "The people of Halesowen are very friendly and welcoming I can't believe how chatty they are, they know what they want".

Sam has seen many changes in furniture over the years. The trends and fashion changes, that is why he prides himself on catering for all tastes and budgets. Furniture Emporium has over 40 suites on display fabric and leather, modern and traditional at a range of budgets. There are also over 10 dining suites on display along with occasional furniture.

To finish off this showroom you also have beds and bedroom furniture again at a budget to suit every pocket.

Sam says "My customers are the most important thing, if I haven't got what they want I will get it for them, my customers know they can rely on me and with this attitude I have remained successful for 40 years".



Unit 2, Eagle Trading Estate, Stourbridge Rd, Halesowen B63 3UA

fast the ticket

It's a beauty

Gary Wilmot
in Oklahoma!
Page 27



Whodunnit?

Mousetrap at the Grand
Page 27



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John Legend



Friday, 7.30pm
 Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
 After an unbelievably successful year that has included a million-plus, platinum selling single, All Of Me, and a worldwide tour, John Legend returns to the UK for more shows.
 Visit www.barclaycardarena.co.uk

Frank Sinatra Jr



Tuesday, 8pm
 Symphony Hall, B'ham
 As a part of this year's centennial celebrations, Frank Sinatra Jr will perform a special multimedia concert at Symphony Hall to pay homage to his father – the singer, the man.
 Visit www.thsh.co.uk

Emma – in the Gardens



Wednesday, 7pm
 Shugborough Hall, Stafford
 Relax with a picnic on a summer's eve and be transported back to a time when finding the perfect match was the order of the day as Austen's classic, Emma is staged.
 Visit www.shugborough.org.uk

The Country Show



Sat, Sun, 10am - 5pm
 Shugborough Estate, Stafford
 Oakleigh Fairs return to Shugborough Estate near Stafford for its fifth year with this favourite family event. All day entertainment includes stunt bikes, The Sheep Show and birds of prey.
 Visit www.shugborough.org.uk

POP & ROCK

John Legend
 Fri at 7.30pm,
 Barclaycard Arena,
 Birmingham, B1 2AA.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons
 Thu at 6.30pm,
 Genting Arena, Birmingham,
 B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Jilted Generation: The Prodigy Tribute
 Sat at 7pm,
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
 WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

GA GA - A Tribute to Queen
 Friday at 7.45pm
 Stafford Gatehouse,
 ST16 2LT. 01785 619080

Abbey Road Experience: Wings Over Abbey Road Tribute
 Sat at 7.30pm,
 Lichfield Garrick, Lichfield,
 WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Roy Orbison & Friends
 Fri at 7.30pm,
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Bon Jovi Experience
 Sat at 7.30pm,
 Prince Of Wales Centre,
 Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 578762

Tony Visconti & Woody Woodmansey – The Man Who Sold The World
 Mon at 7pm,
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Food Fighterz : Foo Fighters Tribute
 Fri at 7.30pm,
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
 DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

The Decades Band
 Sat at 7.30pm,
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
 DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Big Sean
 Mon at 7pm,
 The Institute, Digbeth,
 Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

RNB & SOUL

Gladys Knight
 Sun at 7.30pm,
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Irish Music Session
 Wed at 12pm,
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Liquor & Poker Band
 Sat at 12am,
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
 DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Kathryn Williams
 Wed at 8pm,
 Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's
 Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.
 Call 0121 443 4725

Edwina Hayes
 Mon at 8pm,
 The Crescent Theatre,
 Sheepcote Street, Birmingham,
 B16 8AE.
 Call 0121 643 5858

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
 Wed at 7.45pm,
 Pigot Arms, 11 High Street,
 Pattingham,
 Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
 Call 01902 700207

Common Folk: Singers' Night
 Thu at 8.30pm,
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,
 Walsall Road, Walsall,
 WS3 4BP. Call 01922 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club
 Thu at 8pm,
 Brewood Cricket Club,
 Four Ashes Road, Brewood,
 ST19 9HX.
 Call 01902 850422

Country Music Nights
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2
 Swan With Two Necks,
 Longdon, WS15 4PN.
 Call 01543 491570

The Black Feathers / Lewis & Leigh / Paul Mosley
 Friday, 7.45pm
 The MET Studio
 Stafford Gatehouse,
 ST16 2LT. 01785 619080

OPEN MICS

Open Mic
 Fri at 8pm,
 Light House, Fryer Street,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
 Call 01902 716055

Open Mic Night
 Mon at 12am,
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Worcestershire Youth Music 2015
 Tue at 7pm,
 Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,
 Redditch, B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

Birmingham Dream Cymbals Day
 Sun at 6pm - 11pm,
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,
 B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Frank Sinatra Jnr And Orchestra: Frank Sinatra Tribute
 Tue at 8pm,
 Symphony Hall, Broad Street,
 Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO Schools Concert: Bite-Size Classics
 Thu at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Burt Bacharach
 Wed at 7.30pm,
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

You Should Ask Wallace!
 Thursday 2nd July, 7.30pm
 Stafford Gatehouse,
 ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

Crescent Youth Theatre Summer Showcase 15
 Sat at 7pm,
 The Crescent Theatre,
 Birmingham, B16 8AE.
 Call 0121 643 5858

A Night At The Movies
 Fri at 7.30pm,
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

JJTA Promotions: Just Dance
 Sat at 7pm,
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Limits
 Sun at 7.30pm,
 Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

BE Festival 2015: Before/(don't) Trust Me/Quintetto/Sobrelulita/Game
 Sat at 6.30pm,
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
 B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

BE Festival 2015: Correction/Mouvma!the Whistle/Of Miracles And Wonders, Optimistic Conference
 Fri at 7pm,
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
 B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Octonauts And The Deep Sea Volcano Adventure
 Wed at 1pm, 4.30pm, Thu at 1pm, 4.30pm,
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Jane Eyre
 Wed at 7.30pm,
 Birmingham Botanical Gardens,
 Edgbaston, Birmingham,
 B15 3TR. Call 0121 454 1860

The Russell Brand Effect – The Morning After
 Mon at 8pm - 9.30pm,
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
 B1 2EP.
 Call 0121 236 4455

Don't Leave Me Now
 Mon at 2pm, 6pm,
 Light House, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1HT.
 Call 01902 716055

Arabesque School Of Dance Proudly Presents Disney Delights
 Sun at 5pm,
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
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The Mousetrap
 Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
 Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 573320

Theatre In The Gardens – Emma
 Wed at 7pm,
 The Shugborough Estate,
 Milford, near Stafford,
 ST17 0XB.
 Call 01889 881388

Oklahoma!
 Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm,
 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

Disney's High School Musical Jr
 Fri at 7pm - 9pm, Sat at 3pm - 5pm, 7pm - 9pm,
 Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

Birmingham Royal Ballet: Sylvia
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

Dreamboats And Miniskirts
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
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 Call 01902 573320

COMEDY

Tom Allen: Life/Style & Carly Smallman: Made In Penge
 Fri at 7.45pm - 10pm,
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

EdinBrum Previews: Lucy Porter & Hal Crutenden
 Thu at 7.30pm,
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

TALKS

Bromsgrove Festival: Taking A Bow (Or A Jump) With Michael Seal: Talk
 Wed at 12pm,
 Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, Stoke Heath,
 Bromsgrove, B60 4JR.
 Call 01527 831363

Nick Baker: Weird Creatures
 Fri at 7.30pm,
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

Ranulph Fiennes: A Life At The Limits: Talk
 Mon at 7.30pm,
 Birmingham Town Hall,
 B3 3DQ.
 Call 0121 780 3333

FOOD & DRINK

Food Market
 Sun at 10.30am - 3.30pm,
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

FAMILY

Armed Forces Day
 Sat at 12am,
 Royal Air Force Museum,
 Cosford, Shifnal, TF11 8UP.
 Call 01902 376200

The Country Show
 Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm,
 The Shugborough Estate,
 Milford, Stafford, ST17 0XB.
 Call 01889 881388

Youth Theatre: Workshop (Ages 12-16)
 Sat at 11am - 1pm,
 The Rose Theatre,
 Broadwaters, Kidderminster,
 DY10 2RX.
 Call 01562 743745

Little Friends Baby and Toddler Group
 Fri at 10am - 12pm,
 The Museum Of Cannock Chase,
 Hednesford, WS12 1TD.
 Call 01543 877666

Central Youth Theatre: Workshop (Ages 7-12)
 Sun at 11am - 1pm,
 Newhampton Arts Centre,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
 Call 01902 572090

LOCAL CINEMA

Lambert & Stamp
 Fri at 5.50pm, Sat at 8.05pm, Sun at 5.50pm, Mon at 8.15pm, Tue at 2pm, 5.50pm, Wed at 8.15pm,
 Light House, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1HT.
 Call 01902 716055

The Living Daylights + Licence To Kill
 Sun at 2pm,
 Vue Cinemas, Birmingham,
 B7 5SA.
 Call 01221 224 0240

Hope And Glory
 Sat at 2pm,
 Light House, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1HT.
 Call 01902 716055

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

People are saying that they're in love

BIRMINGHAM Hippodrome panto favourite Gary Wilmot returns to the city next week as one of the stars of the latest revival of classic American musical Oklahoma!

Song-and-dance man Wilmot, who before becoming a panto dame in Birmingham was leading man in such shows as Me and My Girl and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, will play 'Persian peddler' Ali Hakim in Rodgers and Hammerstein's foot-stomping musical set on the prairie.

This new production from Northampton's Royal and Derngate is directed by former Birmingham Rep artistic director Rachel Kavanaugh.

The show features new choreography from Birmingham-born Drew McOnie, who also worked with Wilmot on Hippodrome panto Jack and the Beanstalk.

West End star Ashley Day, who has spent the past couple of years in hit London show The Book of Mormon, will stride out onto the stage as handsome cowboy hero Curly to belt out Oh What a Beautiful Mornin'.

Playing the girl of his dreams, Laurey, is Holby City's Charlotte Wakefield, a soprano who has twice been nominated for Olivier awards, for Spring Awakening in the West End and The Sound Of Music at Regent's Park.

Providing the comic support will be 2point4 Children's Belinda Lang as Aunt Eller and Lucy May Barker, from Spring Awakening and Sweeney Todd as Ado Annie, the girl who just



Ashley Day and Charlotte Wakefield in Oklahoma! Picture: Pamela Raith

'cain't say no', whilst the show's famous villain Jud is played by former Phantom of the Opera Nic Green-shields.

From the award-winning producers of The King & I and Fiddler on the Roof, this brand new production features a large chorus as well as a live

orchestra, performing the songs Surrey With a Fringe on Top, People Will Say We're in Love and Kansas City.

Oklahoma! is staged from Tuesday to Saturday (June 30-July 4). Tickets are priced £18 to £40 and can be booked on 0844 338 5000 or online at www.birminghamhippodrome.com



'Play is famous for its twist'

Don't dare give it away

ONE of the best kept secrets in theatreland will be revealed at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre when The Mousetrap by Queen of Crime Agatha Christie arrives on tour.

The murder mystery play opened in London's West End in 1952 and has been running continuously ever since, making it the longest running show of any kind in the world.

It actually got its premiere at Nottingham and was staged at Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre on tour before opening at London's Ambassadors Theatre in November 1952. It ran at that theatre until moving next door to the larger St Martin's Theatre in March 1974, where it is still running. Foreign productions have broken records from Sydney to Singapore.

The play, which during its phenomenal 60 year run has featured more than 400 actors, is famous for its twist which audiences are asked not to reveal to anyone else.

The touring production coming to the Grand from Monday to Saturday, June 29 to July 4, features former EastEnders actor Mark Homer as Giles Ralston. Jonathan Sidgwick, from Coronation Street and Hollyoaks, plays Mr Paravicini with Hester Arden as Miss Casewell, Edward Elgood as Christopher Wren, and Esther McAuley as Mollie Ralston.

William Ilkley joins from the West End production of The Mousetrap as Major Metcalf alongside Luke Jenkins and Anne Kavanagh who will reprise their roles from the record-breaking 2014 tour as Sergeant Trotter and Mrs Boyle.

Tickets range from £11.50 to £29.50. See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429 212.

Sinatra Jr leads a tribute to his father

THE son of Ol' Blue Eyes, Frank Sinatra Jr, will be paying tribute to his father at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Tuesday to mark the centenary of his birth.

Frank Jr will be accompanied by an orchestra to perform such timeless songs as Strangers in the Night, I've Got You Under My Skin and New York New York. Tickets start at £25 plus fees.

Next Friday (July 3) jazz singer Claire Martin will team up with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra to present a tribute to the late great Ella Fitzgerald. Tickets start at £12.50 plus fees. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 345 0600.

Soap stars feature in a twisted thriller

A STAG night prank has terrifying consequences in Dead Simple, an adaptation by Shaun McKenna of Peter James's best-selling crime thriller, staged at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham, Monday to Saturday, June 29-July 4.

Olivier award nominated director Ian Talbot directs a star-studded cast featuring Tina Hobley from Holby City, ex-EastEnders regular Jamie Lomas, David McKell from Doctors and Emmerdale's Rik Makarem.

Playing Detective Roy Grace will be Gray O'Brien, 2009 British Soap Awards Villain of the Year for playing Tony Gordon in Coronation Street.

Legends of pop have city dates

STARS associated with iconic pop songs are coming to Birmingham next week.

Soul legend Gladys Knight, best known for Midnight Train to Georgia, has sold out her date at Symphony Hall on Sunday. On Wednesday the prestigious venue hosts Burt Bacharach with orchestra. Bacharach has written dozens of hits such as classics Walk On By, Make It Easy on Yourself, I Say a Little Prayer and That's What Friends Are For.

Fabulous falsetto Frankie Valli and the latest incarnation of The Four Seasons bring the sounds of New Jersey to the Genting Arena on July 2.

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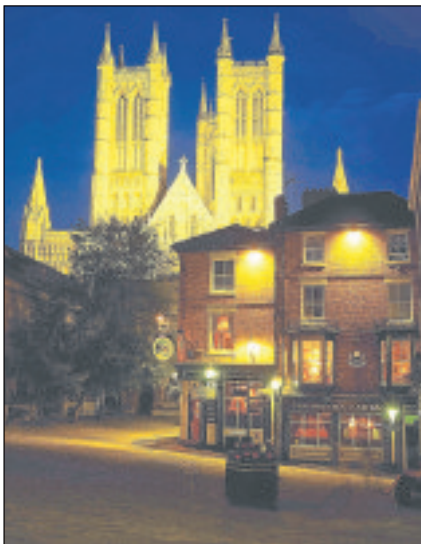
The reopening of Lincoln Castle following its transformation



The cinema within the Magna Carta Visitor Centre



Aerial shot of Lincoln Cathedral, with the restored castle above



A beautifully illuminated Lincoln Cathedral

Such a Magna-ficent city with historical Lincs to royal charter

EIGHT centuries after the sealing of Magna Carta by King John in Surrey, there are only four known surviving copies in existence.

Two belong to the British Library and one to Salisbury Cathedral. The fourth, owned by Lincoln Cathedral, is now on permanent display in a new exhibit at Lincoln Castle.

Lincoln is very much at the centre of renewed interest for the document signed in 1215. Translated as The Great Charter, Magna Carta established the principle that everybody, including the king, was subject to the law. Magna Carta remains a cornerstone of the British constitution to this day.

Visitor numbers for Lincoln are on the rise, and not just because of its links to the world famous charter. There is plenty more to the city. My son and I stayed at The White Hart, a traditional hotel with a mod-

By Paul Naylor

ern twist and stunning views of both the cathedral and newly restored castle walls.

Our suite was a tasteful combination of both old and new. This is the case throughout the lovely hotel, including the superb Grille restaurant on the ground floor.

Transformed

Following a hearty breakfast we made our way on foot the short distance to the castle. Under the direction of Mary Powell, programme manager of Lincoln Castle Revealed, the historic site has been spectacularly transformed. Visitors can now take part in the Lincoln Castle Wall Walk, aided by an electronic audio guide.

The site is also home to two former prisons, one from the Georgian period, another from the Victorian era. Both provide a fas-

cinating addition to the castle and offer an unusual trip through the centuries.

My son Matthew, who is keen on history, was particularly taken with the Victorian prison chapel and enjoyed dressing as an inmate.

However, it is the Magna Carta Visitor Centre, now home to the famous document, and Charter of the Forest, which is drawing crowds. The visitor centre also includes a 'wall of words' translating the script to modern English and a large curved cinema screen to tell the document's story. Copies of the shields of the 25 barons who were present at the sealing of Magna Carta are displayed too. And the latest attraction is a Saxon sarcophagus discovered on an archaeological dig in the castle grounds containing the 1,000-year-old remains of its occupant.

A highlight for many visiting the city will

be its wonderful cathedral, where guide Colin Hill brought the site to life. Building commenced in 1088 and continued in phases throughout the medieval period and was for the best part of 240 years the tallest building in the world.

Visitors can also marvel at the services chapels, one of each dedicated to the Army, RAF and Navy, while for those who enjoy all things relating to military history, a visit to The Museum of Lincolnshire Life is a must.

Venture into the city centre and head for The Fossdyke Canal Trail which runs alongside the Fossdyke Navigation. Walk or cycle towpaths, or relax in style on a water taxi ride from Brayford mooring to the Fyewipe Inn for a tasty meal. Alternatively, take a leisurely cruise on the Brayford Belle. A fabulous way to round off a memorable trip.



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CHOICE



Casualty (BBC1, 8.55pm)
Charlie continues his efforts to help Louis manage his heroin withdrawal, but seems to be fighting a losing battle with his son, while Cal convinces a pushy mum to come clean to her daughter after she fails to reach a beauty pageant. Robyn and Zach finally share a kiss, Dylan's bad day suddenly improves after he mistakenly pockets a 'lucky' talisman, and Zoe and Max fall out over money, with Max choosing to spend a night sleeping in the car after his embarrassment becomes too much for him to bear. Derek Thompson, Gregory Foreman, Suzanne Packer, Amanda Mealing, William Beck and Sunetra Sarker star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **2.30** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Leigh Centurions (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.40** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** **Prized Apart.** The eight remaining adventurers are in the ancient city of Fas, Morocco, where they face a shopping trip with a difference in order to avoid tackling the survival challenge. The contestants are split into two teams for their first test, set on the labyrinthine streets and alleyways of the city, with the losing team then having to take a terrifying leap into the darkness of north Africa's largest cave. The lowest-ranked three contestants are then flown back to their studio partners in the UK, who have to answer quiz questions to make it through to the next round. Presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates. **8.05** **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. **8.55** **Casualty.** Charlie continues his efforts to help Louis manage his heroin withdrawal, while Cal convinces a pushy mum to come clean to her daughter after she fails to reach a beauty pageant. **9.45** **The John Bishop Show.** The comedian presents an evening of entertainment, recorded at the Hackney Empire theatre in London, including music by Leona Lewis and a stand-up routine by Lee Nelson. **10.30** BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.50** **Not Going Out.** Lucy aspires to be friends with posh new neighbours Toby and Anna, but has not reckoned on Lee dragging her right back down to earth. Hugh Dennis guest stars. (R) **11.20 Room 101 - Extra Storage. (R)** **12.00** Film: The Hot Chick. (2002) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Film: The Lost Squadron. (1932) **7.30 Film:** East of Sudan. (1964) **9.00** Wimbledon Classics. **11.00** Kangaroo Dundee. (R) **11.30** Kangaroo Dundee. (R) **12.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **12.15** Alex Polizzi: Chels on Trial. (R) **1.15** Tennis from Eastbourne. The AEGON International final. **4.00** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Glastonbury 2015. **6.00** **Gardeners' World.** (R) **6.30** **Edwardian Farm.** In January, the trio struggle to keep afloat during the harsh winter as Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn work in a tin mine in Cornwall. (R) **7.30** **Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands.** The documentary examining the wildlife of the east Asian country focuses on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island and a place totally unlike the rest of the country. Every year it swings from a bitter Siberian winter into the warmth of a Mediterranean-like summer, with the thaw revealing a landscape changed beyond all recognition. It takes hardy animals and tough people with real ingenuity to survive in this ever-changing place. Last in the series. (R) **8.30** **Dad's Army.** An invasion alert throws Mainwaring's hopeless would-be heroes into a panic, leading one half of the platoon to launch an attack on the other. (R) **9.00** **Mock the Week.** Ed Byrne, Sara Pascoe, James Acaster and Gary Delaney join host Dara O Briain and regulars Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons for the topical comedy quiz show. (R) **9.30** **Glastonbury 2015.** Mark Radcliffe and Gemma Cairney present further coverage from Worthy Farm, including highlights of soul and R&B star Pharrell Williams' set and the headline performance by rapper Kanye West on the Pyramid Stage. Jo Whaley and Huw Stephens then take over hosting duties to bring a selection of acts from the second day at Glastonbury, including music from The Mothership Returns with George Clinton, Parliament, Funkadelic & the Family Stone, as well as a peek at the late-night high jinks that go on under the cover of darkness, and acoustic performances in the studio. **1.00** Film: The Infield. (2010) **2.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Super 4. (R) **8.00** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.10** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.25** TV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **2.35** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **3.35** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.20** Film: Scooby-Doo. (2002) **6.00** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.10** ITV News: Weather. **6.30** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps, as Mick Jagger's son attempts to backflip off his dad's lower lip, and Caroline Flack goes up in flames at a tracking party. (R) **7.00** **Film: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.** (2007) The young wizard struggles to convince his fellow scroobers that the evil Lord Voldemort has returned to life. When Hogwarts headmaster Dumbledore is ousted in favour of a sadistic replacement, Harry realises he must take matters into his own hands, uniting his fellow pupils to form a secret army and training them for the inevitable confrontation to come. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Gary Oldman, Michael Gambon and Alan Rickman. **9.40** **Black Work.** Detective drama, starring Sheridan Smith as a police officer investigating her husband's murder behind her colleagues' backs, a search that places her family in danger. (R) **10.40** ITV News: Weather. **10.55** **FIA Formula E Championship.** The London ePrix. Highlights of the opening race of the weekend, which served as the 10th round of the season, and was staged at Battersea Park Street Circuit in London. **11.55** **The Chase.** Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R) **12.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

8.00 The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** RuPaul's Drag Race. **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newcastle and Newmarket. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** **Come Dine with Me.** It is the final day of the dinner party contest in Derby and the turn of confident triathlete David Morris to host, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R) **6.40** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Walking Through History.** Tony Robinson sets off on a 45-mile hike through the countryside of the Weald in Kent and the Downs of East Sussex to discover the area's rich and surprising Tudor heritage. At Penshurst Place, author Philippa Gregory helps him relish the fate of the Grand Duke of Buckingham at the hands of the young Henry VIII. From there, he travels up what used to be secret paths to Hever Castle and finds out how the monarch's reign brought not only huge social, political and industrial change, but also fame and disaster to the women who caught his eye He ends this leg of his journey in Lewes, where he relives one of the more brutal monastic dissolutions. (R) **8.00** **Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages.** The actress travels to north-west England and north Wales, where she explores a Victorian garden in the shadow of a nuclear power plant, and finds out about tourism in Snowdonia. **9.00** **Film: Taken 2.** (2012) Premiere. Former CIA agent Bryan Mills and his ex-wife Lenore are taken hostage in Istanbul by an Albanian gangster, whose son Bryan killed while bringing down a kidnapping ring. He is able to escape with the aid of his daughter, and together they fight to rescue Lenore and wipe out the criminal family. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson. **10.55** Film: Babylon AD. (2008) **12.40** Street Sound and Style. (R) **1.05** The Last Leg. (R) **2.05** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **4.25** The Renovation Game. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.50** Stop! Police Interceptors. (R) **11.45** Stop! Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50** Film: Columbus: Playback. (1975) Crime drama, with Peter Falk. **2.20** Film: The Green Berets. (1968) Vietnam War adventure, starring John Wayne. **5.05** 5 News Weekend. **5.10** GP's: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **6.10** **Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords.** Documentary highlighting alarming tales from all sides of the buy-to-let system, beginning with a letting agent who turned out to be a fraudster. (R) **7.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** High Court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve and Ben Pinner face their biggest eviction yet - taking on squatters in a large central London office block. With the help of the police, they try to remove a suspected group of 70 from the building, but with a barricade in place, the team faces a challenging operation ahead. Elsewhere, officers are confronted by an army of family and friends when they attempt to enforce a writ at the property of a debtor, and face a difficult eviction at the north London home of a heavily pregnant tenant and her family, after the council fails to pay the rent to the landlord. (R) **8.00** **Celebs on Benefits: Fame to Claim.** Documentary following former Corrie star Bruce Jones (Les Battersby) and one-time Big Brother contestant Lisa Appleton, who have gone from signing autographs to signing on the dole. (R) **9.00** **Big Brother: Back to the 80s.** Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. **10.00** **The 80s: The Best of Bad TV.** A look back at memorable TV highlights from the 1980s, focusing on the best and worst that the decade had to offer. **11.30** Jackass. Johnny Knoxville and his friends present more crazy stunts and wind-ups, including Johnny and the Alligator, Blind Driver, Pontius Skating and Jockstrap Roller. (R) **11.55** Access. (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother: Back to the 80s. (R) **4.00** Person of Interest. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 George Ezra and Clean Bandit @ Glastonbury **8.00** Years & Years and the Maccabees @ Glastonbury **8.50** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. The third quarter-final (Kick-off 9.00pm). **11.00** Ben Howard and Deadmau5 @ Glastonbury **12.15** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. **2.25** Boozie, Bar Crawls and Bulgaria: Stacey Dooley Investigates **3.25** Parents' Evening **3.50** Close **BBC Four**
7.00 Burt Bacharach @ Glastonbury **8.00** Paloma Faith @ Glastonbury **9.00** Cordon **10.40** Suede @ Glastonbury **12.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 **12.40** Brothers in Arms **1.40** Definitely Dusty **2.40** Suede @ Glastonbury **4.00** Close **ITV2**
12.00 Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **4.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **4.35** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.05** Minion Madness **6.20** Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **8.10** Film: Along Came Polly (2004) **10.00** Love Island **11.00** Film: Bachelorette (2012) **12.50** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **1.45** Love Island **2.35** Teleshopping **ITV3**
8.00 Foyle's War **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.05** Wire in the Blood **1.30** Judge Judy **1.50** Man About the House **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
11.30 Live FIA Formula E Championship. **1.15** Counting Cars **1.45** Goals of the 80s **2.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The London ePrix. **5.30** Storage Wars: New York **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.30** World Series of Darts: Yokohama **11.30** Film: The Wicker Man (1973) **1.20** The Professionals **2.20** Nitro Circus **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
11.00 Baby Daddy **12.00** The Goldbergs **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Made in Chelsea **4.00** Film: The Addams Family (1991) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Friends with Benefits (2011) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.15** 2 Broke Girls **1.50** Rules of Engagement **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **4.15** Make It or Break It **Film4**
11.00 Written on the Wind (1956) **1.00** Chalet Girl (2011) **2.55** True Grit (1969) **5.40** Avatar (2009) **9.00** Kick-Ass (2010) **11.15** Super (2010) **1.05** The Squad (2011) **3.20** Close



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CHOICE



Anna Friel

Odyssey (BBC2, 9.15pm)
New series. Double bill. During a mission with her US army special ops team in Mali, North Africa, Sgt Odelle Ballard stumbles upon encrypted files that prove a major American corporation is secretly funding terrorists and copies it onto a flash drive. She is then the sole survivor of an attack on her unit and must make the grueling journey back home. Back in the US, business Investigator Pete Decker uncovers corruption in the private sector, and G8 protest organizer Harrison Walters begins to suspect a government cover-up. Thriller, starring Anna Friel, Peter Facinelli, Jake Robinson and Jim True-Frost.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Prized Apart. (R) **2.20** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **2.50** Flog It! (R) **3.25** Escape to the Continent. (R) **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **5.30** Nature's Greatest Dancers. New series. Steve Backshall presents footage of animals dancing set to music.

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. John Craven visits Dartmoor to investigate a project to restore old watercourses that powered the mining industry, meeting a farmer who has diversified into forestry and making camping pods, and talking to photographer Chris Chapman and folk musician Jim Causley about the area's history. Plus, a compilation of the show's best features on working landscapes, featuring clay quays, rare horses and an underground amusement park. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.

9.00 Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell. England is plunged into chaos as ancient magical forces are unleashed on the world and the dark prophecy of the Raven King looks to be fulfilled. Norrell finds to the safety of his library, but is pursued by Strange, who intends to free Arabella before the Gentleman's curse consumes him. Childermass tries to find a way to break the enchantment on Lady Pole, as Stephen is drawn deeper into the sinister world of the Fairy kingdom. Conclusion of the fantasy drama starring Bertie Carvel and Eddie Marsan. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 A David Attenborough Special.

11.05 Don't Tell the Bride. The popular BBC Three wedding planning series makes the jump to BBC One, and with the move comes an increased budget. (R)

12.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Animal Park. (R) **6.35** The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **7.35** Countryfile. (R) **8.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.35** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.05** The Box. (R) **11.35** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **12.35** Wimbledon Review 2014. **1.35** Film: From Here to Eternity. (1953) Second World War drama, starring Rudolph Valentino. **3.30** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. St Helens v Widnes Vikings (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.15 Glastonbury 2015. Lauren Laverne, Mark Radcliffe and Jo Whaley present coverage of Sunday afternoon's performances at the festival, including Lionel Richie on the Pyramid Stage in this year's Sunday Afternoon Legends spot. Plus, performances by Patti Smith, Future Islands and Hozier, an acoustic set by Malian desert blues group Sonoghy Blues and Gemma Cairney's latest report on the unseen areas of the festival.

8.00 Top Gear. Compilation of two features from the most recent series. The presenters immerse themselves in the world of classic cars, with Jeremy Clarkson in a Fiat 124 Spider, Richard Hammond in an MGB GT and James May in a Peugeot 304 Cabriolet. They also enter the world of the sports utility vehicle as they find out what sort of SUV can be bought for just a few hundred pounds before putting them through a series of challenges.

9.15 Odyssey. New series. Double bill. During a mission with her US army special ops team in Mali, North Africa, Sgt Odelle Ballard stumbles upon encrypted files that prove a major American corporation is secretly funding terrorists and copies it onto a flash drive. She is then the sole survivor of an attack on her unit and must make the grueling journey back home. Back in the US, business Investigator Pete Decker uncovers corruption in the private sector, and G8 protest organizer Harrison Walters begins to suspect a government cover-up. Thriller, starring Anna Friel and Peter Facinelli.

10.40 Glastonbury 2015.

1.00 Film: Treacle Jr. (2010) **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.15** Holby City. (R) **4.15** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** Live FIA Formula E Championship. **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.30** Off The Rockers. (R) **3.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The second race of the London ePrix. **5.45** Love Your Garden. (R)

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather. **7.00** ITV News; Weather. **7.15 Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated adventures, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 Surprise Surprise. Holly Willoughby makes more dreams come true for unsuspecting members of the public. An unsuspecting mother is flown to the studio by helicopter, a family that was divided by a devastating illness is reunited, and a ballroom dancing class in Blackpool is taken over by street dance group Diversity, who have a surprise in store for one of the members.

9.00 Black Work. A suspect is taken into custody for Ryan's murder, but Jo is not convinced the police have the guilty party. She continues to investigate her husband's undercover work, discovering dark secrets relating to both his colleagues and the criminals they were pursuing, and finally coming to a disturbing revelation about the man she married.

10.00 ITV News; Weather. **10.20 FIA Formula E Championship.** The London ePrix. Highlights of the second race of the weekend, which served as the 11th and final round of the campaign, and was staged at Battersea Park Street Circuit in London.

11.20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. The celebrities navigate their way through dense jungle down a ravine, before eating live scorpions and facing their first big test – a descent of a 120ft waterfall. (R)

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Ginetta GT5 Challenge. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** Film: Edward Scissorhands. (1990) Tim Burton's fantasy, starring Johnny Depp. **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **6.30** Channel 4 News.

7.00 Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild. Kevin travels to Central America to meet British family-of-five the Atkinsons, who have quit London to live a simpler existence in the rainforests of Belize. As he attempts to understand their motivations for the move, he suffers from the heat, is attacked by swarms of biting insects and shares his mud hut with a large scorpion, but begins to appreciate the rewards of a simple jungle life, one in which they've constructed a two-storey building entirely from recycled rubbish. (R)

8.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015. George Clarke and the judges visit the nominees in the Unique Sheds category, which include a Japanese-style treeshouse, a shed built in a tree 16 metres in the air, a gothic folly and the smallest shed in the competition, which forms part of a model railway. They also examine the entries for best historical shed, including an Anglo-Saxon dwelling, a 1950s diner, a writing hut that once belonged to George Bernard Shaw and a corrugated cottage from the Second World War.

9.00 Humans. Laura tries to get rid of Anita, but is forced to reconsider when the synth saves Toby's life. Pete and Karen investigate a murder, and George plans to escape his joyless routine.

10.00 Film: The Cold Light of Day. (2012) A man searching for his kidnapped family is caught in the middle of a conflict between rival intelligence agents. Thriller, starring Henry Cavill, Bruce Willis and Sigourney Weaver. (R)

11.55 Rude Tube. (R)

12.50 Film: Blue Valentine. (2010) **2.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** The Renovation Game. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **7.00** Chloë's Closet. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** The Secret Life of Pets. (R) **11.05** Stop! Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Film: The Land Before Time. (1988) Animated adventure, with the voice of Gabriel Damon. **1.20** Film: The Princess Bride. (1987) Comic fantasy adventure, starring Cary Elwes. **3.15** Film: Spies Like Us. (1985) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd. **5.05** 5 News Weekend. **5.10** Film: Beetlejuice. (1988) Tim Burton's supernatural comedy, starring Michael Keaton.

6.55 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort hotel fears his career will be jeopardised when his regular partner is forced to pull out of an important show in which they are due to perform. Luckily, a naive teenager is happy to step in, and is treated to a whirlwind holiday education in life, love and expressing herself. Romantic drama, starring Patrick Swayze, Jennifer Grey and Jerry Orbach. Edited for violence, language and sexual content.

9.00 Big Brother: Back to the 80s. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Greatest 80s Movies. Ronni Ancona narrates a countdown of viewers' favourite films from the decade, including ET, Top Gun, The Goonies, Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop and Ferris Bueller's Day Off. (R)

12.50 Jackass. Johnny Knoxville tries his hand at sumo wrestling. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Big Brother: Back to the 80s. Daily round-up of highlights. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. A cluttered B&B on the Norfolk coast. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Alt-J & Charli XCX @ Glastonbury **9.00** Lianne La Havas & Jamie T @ Glastonbury **10.30** The Chemical Brothers @ Glastonbury **11.30** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **12.35** Family Guy **1.55** Freshers: Sex and Suspicious Parents **2.45** Don't Tell the Bride **3.40** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **3.55** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Horizon: The Power of the Placebo **8.00** Paul Weller @ Glastonbury **9.00** Pappano's Classic Voices **10.00** Arena: Nicolas Roeg – It's About Time **11.00** Film: Walkabout (1971) **12.40** Irish Rock at the BBC **1.35** Paul Weller @ Glastonbury **2.35** Horizon: The Power of the Placebo **3.35** Close

ITV2

12.00 Catchphrase **12.40** Take Me Out **1.50** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.35** Love Island **3.35** Minion Madness **3.50** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **5.45** Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Film: The Break-Up (2006) **12.15** Crazy Beaches **12.40** Love Island **1.40** Fake Reaction **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

9.00 Caroline Quentin's National Parks **10.00** Film: Wimbledon (2004) **12.00** Wycliffe **1.05** On the Buses **2.00** Judge Judy **3.45** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin **3.30** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round five from Croft. **6.15** World Series of Darts: Yokohama **11.15** Film: Exit Wounds (2001) **1.25** River Monsters **2.30** Movies Now **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.35** The Goldbergs **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.00** Film: Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **7.45** Rude! (TBS) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Gogglebox **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.35** Tattoo Fixers **1.40** Tattoos After Dark **2.35** My Mad Fat Diary **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Arabian Adventure (1979) **1.00** Big (1988) **3.15** The Towering Inferno (1974) **6.35** 27 Dresses (2008) **9.00** The Mechanic (2011) Action thriller remake, starring Jason Statham and Ben Foster. **10.45** The Bank Job (2008) **12.55** Only Yesterday (1991) **3.30** Close

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Lot 43. A Moorcroft ewer £80- £120



Lot 585. Six bottles of assorted wine. £100-£500



Lot 597. Italian ceramic study depicting a Rotweiler. £30-£50



Lot 5. Franklin Mint Baccarat paperweights. £80-£120

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
King of Texas, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An ageing cattle baron chooses to divide up his empire between his three daughters. His actions set in motion a deadly feud between the sisters that threatens to destroy the business the old man has worked his whole life to build. Western inspired by Shakespeare's King Lear, starring Patrick Stewart, Marcia Gay Harden and Lauren Holly. (2002)

TUESDAY
Surviving Summer, BBC1, 11.55pm
A troubled teenager who witnessed her father's suicide spends a summer living with her grandparents and working as a waitress. She falls in love with the restaurant's ambitious cook, but her grandparents do not approve of him, as he has a criminal past. Drama, starring Hilary Duff. (2009)

WEDNESDAY
Sub Zero, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A weapon of mass destruction is stolen from the US government and lost at the top of the world's second-highest mountain. A team of crack climbers is sent to disarm and retrieve the device before Russian terrorists get to it first – but the enemy may have already infiltrated their expedition. Action adventure, starring Costas Mandylor and Linden Ashby. (2005)



The Hitcher, Friday, ITV, 11.10pm

THURSDAY
NYC: Tornado Terror, Channel 5, 3.15pm
New York's deputy mayor receives a warning from his estranged meteorologist wife that the city is about to be hit by a massive tornado, but convincing the residents of the scale of the impending danger proves an uphill struggle. Disaster thriller, starring Nicole de Boer, Sebastian Spence, Colby Johannson and Jerry Wasserman. (2008)

FRIDAY
The Hitcher, ITV, 11.10pm
A couple offer a hitch-hiker a lift, only to discover that he is a cold-blooded killer. The pair manage to escape his clutches and continue on their journey, but it quickly becomes apparent that their former passenger is framing them for a series of gory roadside slayings. Horror remake, starring Sean Bean. (2007)

A trip down memory lane with some old favourites

The 1980s was a turbulent decade all over the world, but especially here in the UK, from riots and football hooliganism, to a royal wedding celebrated by the entire nation, and big hair accompanying shoulder pads.

It was also a period of massive change in the TV world. Although it was the decade of the VCR, many people didn't make plans if there was a big TV show listed in their magazine that night.

And Channel 5 is dedicating some of this weekend to the 1980s and it's best (and worst) TV shows and films.

It all kicks-off at 9.00pm tonight with a visit to the Big Brother house, where the housemates will be taking part in all manner of 80s-themed challenges, which will probably involve a bit of fancy dress, role-playing and 80s-themed rewards and punishment.

Then nostalgic retrospective The 80s: The Best of Bad TV takes a look back at some of the so-bad-they-were good programmes we were watching during a decade that was marked by excess.

It was a golden age for sitcoms both in the UK and across the Pond.

Over here, Peckham comedy Only Fools and Horses, student digs sitcom The Young Ones, and historical romp Black Adder were pulling in the viewers, while in the States Robin Williams vehicle Mork & Mindy, Boston bar ratings winner Cheers, and the most watched television show in the United States in 1989, Roseanne, were all hits.

There were also a number a big, silly action adventures where the good guys always won, none more so than David Hasselhoff show Knight Rider, those Good Ol' Boys The Dukes of Hazzard and, of course, Hannibal, Face, Murdoch and BA, aka The A-Team.

Sci-fi and mystery also had a resurgence in the decade with lizard people soap opera V, influential drama The Twilight Zone, the time-hopping Quantum Leap, and Starship Enterprise reboot Star Trek: The Next Generation all boldly going where no shows had gone before.

However, the detective/police procedural drama was arguably the

genre which has the largest resurgence boom, especially over the Atlantic.

Crockett and Tubbs were coolness personified in the visually stunning Miami Vice, while female buddy cop show Cagney & Lacey and Tom Selleck's breakthrough role as Magnum, P.I. were massive worldwide smashes.

Finally who can forget the undisputed king of all prime-time soaps, oil tycoon melodrama Dallas?

It is even said that the Queen Mother was among the 83 million people worldwide who tuned in to watch the episode, titled A House Divided, which become better known as Who Shot JRF?

After that fun rundown on Saturday night, Sunday's scheduling sees hit films from the decade – The Land Before Time, The Princess Bride, Spies Like Us, Beetle Juice and Dirty Dancing all get an airing, before a further trip to the BB house and another chance to see the epic countdown show Greatest 80s Movies, narrated by Ronni Ancona.



The 80s: The Best of Bad TV, Saturday, Channel 5, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Superfoods: The Real Story Channel 4, 8.30pm
According to the old saying, you are what you eat. So, could we all eat smarter? Probably. And doing so may help prolong our lives. Every so often, scientists reveal something new about the food we consume, revealing the items that have previously unknown health benefits. Sadly, none of them ever seem to be burgers or chips. This new series, fronted by Kate Quilton, focuses on the so-called superfoods, and asks whether they really are the nutrition miracles we've been led to believe. She begins by investigating the idea that eating grapefruit can help fight fat, and whether kale is good for eyes. Kate also looks at sugar substitute xylitol, and finds out if it could be good for teeth, as has been claimed.

TUESDAY
The 7/7 Bombing: Survivors' Stories ITV, 9pm
For those who witnessed the atrocity or were caught up in it themselves, it probably seems like a short time since four British-born suicide bombers launched an attack on London's transport system. More than 750 people were injured that day, and a further 52 killed during the deadliest attack on the

capital since the infamous Blitz of the Second World War. However, it was 10 years ago next week, and as a result, our TV schedules are sure to be dominated by documentaries about the terrifying event soon. First off the mark is this programme, which hears from survivors, victims, their relatives and rescuers as they relate their often remarkable stories. Actor Mark Strong provides the narration.

WEDNESDAY
Long Lost Family ITV, 9pm
Davina McCall enlists the aid of a specialist intermediary to help Elizabeth Wells and her daughter Janice track down Paul, the second-born child Elizabeth put up for adoption 50 years earlier when it became clear she would not be able to support both her children as a single mother. She also offers expert assistance to Tracey Collins, who discovered at the age of 17 that she has an older brother, Thomas, who her parents felt ill-prepared to raise when he was born, due to the fact that they lacked work and were unmarried.



Long Lost Family, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

After suffering a stroke, Tracey's father had vowed to help her find his estranged son, but died before he was able to share crucial information about his location. Now, Tracey seeks guidance from Nicky Campbell in tracking Thomas down.

THURSDAY
Britain Beneath Your Feet BBC1, 8pm
According to Dallas Campbell we can only truly understand the familiar world around us by discovering the hidden wonders beneath our feet. In this two-part documentary, computer graphics are used to strip away the earth and lay bare this secret world of hidden rivers, mines, power stations, iconic buildings and amazing wildlife. Campbell finds out how the Shard of London – the tallest skyscraper in Western Europe – stays standing on soft clay, and

reveals the genius underwater engineering that allowed the Forth Rail Bridge to be constructed in the 19th century. Along the way, the presenter also meets many of the people who help keep Britain running from underground, including the men who drive the largest tunnelling machines in the world, and those who dislodge 'fatbergs' that block the sewers beneath London.

FRIDAY
Conspiracy: The Lord Lucan Dossier Channel 5, 8pm
The case of John Bingham, 7th Earl of Lucan, who vanished in November 1974, has baffled experts and captured the imagination of many for years. His disappearance coincided with the murder of his children's nanny Sandra Rivett, as well as an attack on his wife, Veronica. Lucan was never caught or tried for the crime, but in the four decades since he fled numerous sightings have been reported of him from around the world. Some people believe he escaped justice, while others think he too was later murdered. Other cases featured in this gossip-mongering but undoubtedly fascinating documentary involve the kidnapping and murder of aviator Charles Lindbergh's baby son in 1927 and that of US union leader Jimmy Hoffa, who went missing in 1975.

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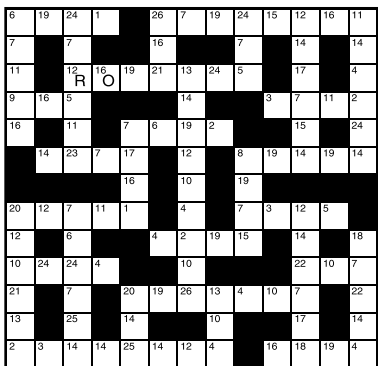
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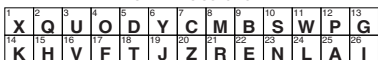
BRAIN GYM No.331

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

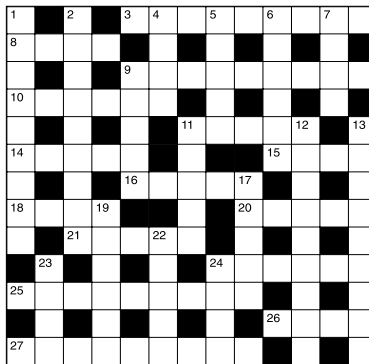
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- He demonstrates against professional examiner (9)
- 21Ac. Inferior fish, we hear, for those who attract pity (4,5)
- Friend has a place for a meal that's tasty (9)
- Make an allusion about Eastern drug container (6)
- In truth, a remarkable collection of females (5)
- Sportsman who takes a shocking risk about the top of the Eiffel (5)
- Not the kind of reception in which one is cold-shouldered? (4)
- Disorganised dance in the Ardennes (5)
- See 23 Down
- The girl is one in love, maybe (5)
- See 8 Across
- Insult fifty within visual range (6)
- Occupied a position, as it happened (4,5)
- The sort of repairer to improve your understanding (4)
- They are inclined to spoil a grand site (9)

Down

- See 12 Down
- Do cinemas confuse the wits? (9)
- Foster will show a position at the back (4)
- It is put up by an artist as fine head-gear (5)
- We will get involved with the same bird (3-3)
- They are likely to slip from the creel sometimes (4)
- Looks closely at those with a House of their own (5)
- Doesn't reveal the skins (5)
- 12 & 1Dn. What's the blacksmith doing? Creating a disturbance (6,3,6,3)
- It's seamen in disorder who will get pardons (9)
- Old coin that is not common (5)
- Cut off, but reached port (6)
- i will shortly be in the French town (5)
- 23 & 18Ac. Heath to secure the boat and step ashore (8)
- Commanding officer seen in the street may be a Highlander (4)



Quick Clues:

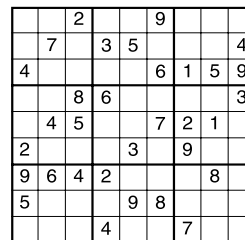
Across

- Slept (9)
- Noose (4)
- Manufacture (9)
- Source (6)
- Abyss (5)
- Wrong (5)
- Rescue (4)
- Shin-bone (5)
- Quote (4)
- Scope (5)
- Give off (5)
- Guide (6)
- Clever (9)
- Prepare for press (4)
- Fruitfulness (9)

Down

- Concession (9)
- Probationer (9)
- Thin (4)
- Military tune (5)
- Surplus (6)
- Consumes (4)
- Prime (5)
- Wire (5)
- Size (9)
- Profane (9)
- The Ram (5)
- Look for (6)
- Training (5)
- Formerly (4)
- Has to (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Fate; 3 Base-line; 8 Ride; 9 Suppress; 11 Isolated case; 13 Rising; 14 Parson; 17 Joint account; 20 Peasants; 21 Stern; 22 Disallow; 23 Here. Down: 1 Furries; 2 Tedious; 4 Amused; 5 Expectancy; 6 Ideas; 7 Erse; 10 Cannonball; 12 Instance; 15 Scuttle; 16 Castro; 18 Opals; 19 Aged. QUICK - Across: 1 Duly; 3 Advanced; 8 Send; 9 Studios; 11 Introductory; 13 Escape; 14 Fought; 17 Regeneration; 20 Inedible; 21 Gail; 22 Detonate; 23 Lead. Down: 1 Despised; 2 Lunatic; 4 Detour; 5 Additional; 6 Choir; 7 Dusk; 10 Completion; 12 Standard; 15 Grimace; 16 Pellet; 18 Eject; 19 Wild.

Thinking space

Quiz

- Who won the 1964 Nobel peace prize?
- Which 'pop' artist do you associate with Campbell's soup cans?
- On which river does Washington DC stand?
- Which zodiac sign straddles December and January?
- What were the christian names of H.G. Wells?
- Who was the Roman god of war?
- Which country's flag is a yellow cross on a blue background?
- In which country was the schilling a monetary unit?
- What is the collective noun used to describe a group of crows?
- In which year did the Japanese attack a US fleet in Pearl Harbor?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Lemuel; 2 1959; 3 Photography; 4

Albania; 5 Ray Milland; 6 Alaska; 7 1642; 8

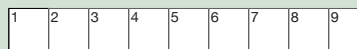
1920; 9 Argentina; 10 Walking pace.

Niner: SEAWORTHY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

347 gives an animal,
5461 gives insects,
62398 gives another animal.



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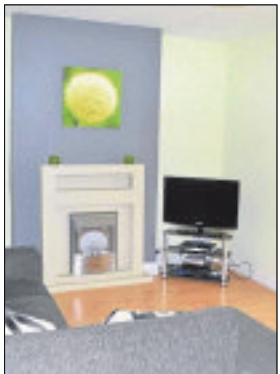
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HALESOWEN, Hunnington Crescent£750 pcm+Fees
Centrally located to Halesowen. This immaculate property which is not to be missed features 4 good size bedrooms, 1 large reception room, fitted kitchen with dishwasher and fridge freezer, house bathroom with shower, conservatory, block paved driveway and garage. EPC: E



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HALESOWEN, Hill Top Avenue£675 pcm+Fees
A lovely detached family home having been newly decorated & carpeted in this very popular location close to bus links/shops. A welcoming hallway leads to the lounge with patio doors to conservatory. A large modern kitchen with integrated appliances and separate dining area. Shown on lounge leading to 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom suite with shower. Beautiful rear garden with decking, driveway parking for 2 vehicles. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Hunnington Crescent£650 pcm+Fees
Beautifully presented and within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. This 3 bedroom townhouse features a fitted kitchen, large lounge with space for a dining area, house bathroom with shower, low maintenance rear garden, double glazing and gas central heating, driveway and garage. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Forecraft Street£595 pcm+Fees
Well proportioned 3 bedroom end terrace house within walking distance to local shops and buses to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Cradley Heath. Featuring entrance hall, porch, modern kitchen, large lounge, conservatory, 3 double bedrooms and white bathroom suite with shower. Gas central heating, double glazed, driveway and garage. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Wiltshire Drive£575 pcm+Fees
Located on the Homer Hill Estate. A semi-detached home briefly featuring 1 double bedroom and 2 single bedrooms, spacious lounge, large kitchen with dining area, family bathroom with telephone shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, off road parking, unfurnished. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Wrights Lane£595 pcm+Fees
A short distance from Old Hill shops and local train station is this well presented unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: 3 bedrooms, modern fitted dining kitchen, lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, on road parking to front. EPC: TBC



BRIERLEY HILL, Mousehall Farm Road£575 pcm+Fees
A lovely 3 bedroom mid terrace house which has been recently re-decorated & newly carpeted. This property has a fitted kitchen with oven/hob, utility room, lounge with patio doors leading to a well maintained private rear garden, stairs off lounge leading to 2 double & 1 single bedroom, white bathroom suite with shower. Available Now. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Kiln Croft£550 pcm+Fees
Located in a peaceful cul-de-sac, is this modern end terrace home which is well worth an inspection, comprising of: 2 double bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, house bathroom with shower, electric heating, rear garden and 1 allocated parking space. This property will not last long, so don't miss out. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Holt Road £550 pcm+Fees
A nicely presented refurbished mid terraced home, close to local shops. Featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, small rear garden, on road parking. Available Now. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Surfelt Hill Road£550 pcm+Fees
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HALESOWEN, Fatherless Barn Crescent£525 pcm+Fees
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ROWLEY REGIS, Habberley Road£495 pcm+Fees
This lovely unfurnished mid terraced home is located close to local shops, and minutes away from J2 of the M5. Briefly comprising of 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden and off road parking. EPC: E



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CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close£425 pcm+Fees
This lovely unfurnished ground floor apartment, with views over the canal and on a popular development. Featuring 1 bedroom, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with small fridge and washing machine, gas central heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking, communal garden. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Lyde Green £395 pcm+Fees
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3

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Spiced up 308 GT is Peugeot's flagship

By Bill McCarthy

SOME like it hot when it comes to Peugeots, note the 205 GTi and the 208 GTi.

So it should be no surprise to see the firm's small family car the 308 gets a piece of the action.

The 308 is a fine looking car in its own right, but with the spiced up GT as its flagship, it gets a bit of extra bling, badges and performance, both the hatchback and estate.

Despite the sporty makeover, the car remains a hugely practical economical compact family car, with the estate tested here just as good looking as the saloon, in common with many estates these days.

With a choice of petrol or diesel engines available, and tweaked, lowered suspension, both deliver warm rather than hot-hatch performance.

Squaring the circle of performance with economy is never going to be easy, but both the 1.6-litre petrol and two-litre diesel engines offer decent economy and lowish CO2 emissions, with the efficient diesel tested here being particularly frugal.

Despite being able to propel the car from 0-60mph in just 8.4 seconds, it has claimed fuel economy of nearly 70mpg and very low emissions of 107g/km, making it a very attractive fleet car option.

They are not cheap, but are impressively equipped with standard kit which would bump up price of cheaper competitors. These include high-end items like radar parking sensors with rear camera and head up display as well as the usual array of gadgetry you would expect on a car in the mid-£20,000 bracket.

It is very stylish featuring all-LED headlamps, with LED daytime running lights and LED indicators and the signature lion badge can now be found on the grille, breaking slightly with the corporate Peugeot floating grille seen across the range.

Sporty side skirts have been added as you move around the car towards the rear where twin exhausts complete the sporty look. This is all topped off by striking 18-inch alloy wheels with fluted spokes and engraved motif.

Peugeot interiors are now up there with the best and the GT features exclusive touches with high-quality finish upholstery in anthracite with red stitching around the dashboard, door panels, gear lever gaiter and floor mats.

Aluminium detailing on the pedals, coupled with stainless steel sill finishers in the door apertures, add the finishing touch. It also features the now familiar neat and sporty steering wheel, also finished with perforated leather trim and featuring the GT badge.

The dash and controls are simple and easy to use, featuring the firm's, decluttered layout of the dash with touch screen, controlling functions like climate, sat nav and infotainment, with easy to read dials in the binnacle.

The four-cylinder 2.0-litre BlueHDI 180 diesel engine also offers a high level of performance and great pulling power with a maximum torque of 400Nm at 2,000rpm making it an easy car to drive on the motorway. It is coupled to smooth shifting six-speed automatic gearbox.

Standard kit also includes the Driver Sport Pack, which delivers raspy exhaust note, red display when switched to sport mode; instrument panel that displays the power and torque delivered, more responsive power steering, accelerator pedal mapping and operation of the gearbox, with steering wheel-mounted control paddles.

While not breathtaking performance, these enhancements plus the sportier suspension deliver and enjoyable drive, but just as importantly a comfortable ride when the sport mode is disabled.

Being an estate the stowage area is large, particularly with rear seats folded flat, but is also well-shaped with easy access for smaller people and other stowage areas abound through the cabin.

All Peugeots have high levels of safety kit and the GT includes all round airbags, assisted braking and stability control, plus Isofix child anchor points.

It's expensive, but offers a comprehensive range of equipment, is hugely practical – and it sure looks good.



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Peugeot 308 SW GT BlueHDI 180

Price: £26,845

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Viva joins small car stable

By Graham Breeze

Back in the heady days of the late 1960s my late best mate was often the centre of attention in his gleaming Viva so I wonder what he would have made of today's reincarnation of the old Vauxhall favourite.

His souped-up model had the lot including wider wheels and even go-faster stripes and we enjoyed many a motoring adventure on the country roads of Mid Wales and Shropshire.

Sadly my pal Clive died in a motoring accident but I think he would have been impressed with the makeover Vauxhall has unveiled to his prized possession – even if it no longer suits drivers looking for thrills.

The name vanished but is now back in showrooms as a city car segment competitor, representing value for money as Vaux-

hall bosses recognise the needs of the cautious, price conscious motorist. Viva fits the bill perfectly and is the epitome of value for money with prices starting at under £8,000, with even the top-spec model coming to the showroom at less than £10,000.

Even the basic SE getting five seats, electric front windows, cruise control and a trip computer. The top-spec SL gets climate control, Bluetooth and alloy wheels and you only £2,000 more.

Viva joins Vauxhall's growing small-car family, which already includes ADAM and Corsa, but is clearly defined from these models by its value, range and dimensions.

There's no mistaking Viva is a Vauxhall as the latest model in the range to display the company's sculptured design philosophy. Three strong feature lines swoop down the sides with the signature 'blade', seen previously on Insignia and GTC, slicing through the doors. The two others run through the front and rear door handles while the front end features a distinctive winged chrome bar that presents the Griffin badge.

This design is a great looking feature but you do wonder what the cost of repairs would be to any damage to the side panels.

Large headlights and taillights are added to create a design that shows a lot of attention to detail for a vehicle in this class.

Under the bonnet of all models you will find the same 1.0-litre three-cylinder engine, with 74bhp and 95Nm of torque while the SE models get ecoFLEX trim, adding low rolling resistance tyres as well as front and rear spoilers, dropping CO2 levels below the road tax threshold. The one-litre engine is part of Vauxhall's large-scale engine offer-



'It's always a risk when a manufacturer resurrects a model but the new Viva is so far removed from its predecessor it doesn't really matter.'

sive, which started last year and will bring 17 new powertrains to market before 2018.

The 1.0-litre ECOTEC (75PS) is the base engine of a new generation of small Vauxhall petrol engines. The next more powerful version is the 1.0 ECOTEC Direct Injection Turbo that has been available in ADAM and Corsa with an output of either 90PS or 115PS. Vauxhall says all models will do 60mpg on the combined cycle though on test it was closer to 50mpg.

Inside there's plenty of room for four people and a 206 litre boot which would not pass the golf club test. It's comfortable

enough up front, though there's only tilt adjustment to the steering column which means sliding the seat in and out or up and down is the only way to get cosy.

It's always a risk when a manufacturer resurrects a model but the new Viva is so far removed from its predecessor it doesn't really matter.

The three cylinder engine lacks a bit of firepower but this Viva is aimed at a motorist with economy in mind rather than mph.

With ADAM and Corsa already out there Vauxhall will have to be careful not to become recognised as a small car producer.



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Swimmers left trailing in tough competition

Mercian Summer League Round 2 Leamington Spa

HALESOWEN swimmers travelled to Leamington Spa to compete in the second round of the Mercian Summer League.

The draw promised tough competition where they found themselves up against the home team, Rugby, Redditch, Wombourne and Warley, and that is exactly what faced Halesowen right from the first event.

By the halfway mark it was clear that Halesowen were in the lower half of the points, with Leamington Spa and Rugby surging ahead and Halesowen forced to play catch-up.

Despite some battling performances from the Halesowen swimmers, the team were unable to improve further by the end of the gala and had to settle for finishing fifth overall.

First places were hard to come by throughout the competition and it was some consolation that the boys did manage a few.

The only individual event winners on the night were Jacob Bailey in the boys age 10 and under 50m backstroke and Jakob Baker in the boys 14 and under 100m breaststroke.

Relay event winners were Sam Bradley-Wood, George Davies, Daniel Hill and Tristan Bland in the open medley and they also triumphed in the open freestyle relay when joined by Tom Parker.

Final point scores for the meeting were Leamington Spa 244, Rugby 219, Redditch 167, Wombourne 157, Halesowen 135, Warley Wasps 118.

Fans angry at Midlands derby snub

MATCH OF THE DAY bosses have angered Albion and Villa supporters after delivering a snub to the West Midlands derby.

Despite it being one of football's oldest rivalries, the fixture was ignored when the programme listed next season's key derby meetings on its Twitter account yesterday.

Clashes in Manchester, Liverpool, the north-east and north London were all featured in a Tweet headed: "The ones that really matter."

That prompted a playful riposte from Albion, who posted from their own official Twitter account: "Oh... how awkward."

"Seen this @AVFCOfficial? Apparently our derby doesn't matter"

Villa host the Baggies on September 19, with the return fixture at The Hawthorns on January 23.

Charles wants to be a leader to Yeltz

HALESOWEN TOWN'S latest recruit hopes he can use his wisdom and experience to guide the young Yeltz's stars away from the same mistakes he made as a youngster.

Former Football League defender Anthony Charles, 34, signed in at the Grove on Sunday after recent stints at Nuneaton and Worcester City, although he is perhaps more known for more than 180 games for Aldershot, along with spells at Northampton Town and Plymouth Argyle.

Needless to say, he provides John Hill's backline with barrels of experience and know-how.

The defender said: "Players at this level have to work twice as hard, so I already know to absolutely

not be disrespectful. I will be taking the same mentality as my Football League days – my aim is to set an example to the lads around me and to be a big influence.

"When I was younger playing non-league as a young lad I still remember the 30-year-old players setting an example and that has really stuck with me.

"I'm expecting to work hard and be pushed hard, train as if it was pro level.

"John and Matty (Clarke, assistant) sold me the club's ethos at the minute, along with the lads they've been bringing in.

"I want to be involved in the playing the game

while I can – my young family and furthering my career have fit in perfectly around my move to Hales.

"If I can push them to make correct decisions and go about things properly that is great, help them avoid the kind of mistakes I've made."

Yeltz boss Hill was delighted with his most recent purchase, particularly after a tough number of days with key names heading out of the exit door – including Curtis Tilt to Hednesford and Tom Tonks and Kristian Green to Stourbridge.

"It's obviously a brilliant signing," the Grove chief said. "Anthony fits the bill of left centre-half perfectly. He's a really nice guy – I'm very excited to work with a top pro."

£60,000 wage to tempt Ba to Baggies

ALBION are ready to make Demba Ba the highest paid player in Hawthorns history to land the £10m striker.

The Baggies are ready to splash out a club-record transfer fee and offer wages of more than £60,000-a-week in order to lure the 30-year-old to the club from Turkish side Besiktas.

But they remain locked in a potential struggle to sign the former Chelsea and Newcastle hitman with cash-rich clubs from around the world keeping tabs. Besiktas board member Ahmet Urkmezgil claims the club have received a bid of 14 million euros from Chinese side Shanghai Shenhua for Ba, who seems certain to leave Turkey this summer after a dispute with the club.

"Nothing has been agreed yet," said Urkmezgil. "The Chinese side wants him and have made us an offer of 14 million euros but nothing has been finalised as of yet."

Splashed

Albion are willing to match the Chinese bid, which equates to around £10m. That would eclipse the down-payment splashed out last summer on Brown Ideye – the overall club-record £10m figure depends on add-ons which have yet to be triggered.

But the real key to the Ba deal is likely to be personal terms.

The Baggies are ready to push the boat out to persuade the Senegal international to sign, but with Shenhua and wealthy clubs from the Middle East also in the mix, they could still be gazumped on wages.

They still hope, however, that Ba's desire to return to the Premier League will work in their favour with sources close to the player already indicating he is reluctant to move to China.

James McClean has become Tony Pulis' first signing of the summer and he is now keen to land Matty Phillips from QPR.

McClean has arrived at Albion with a glowing recommendation from a reporter who watched him at Wigan.

McClean ended last season as Wigan's leading scorer and cleaned up in the club's end-of-season awards.

Pulis also wants to strengthen the back, with QPR's Steven Caulker and Hull's James Chester among the centre-backs under consideration.

Old pals sold Albion to McCLean



New surroundings for winger James McCLean after signing a three-year-deal at The Hawthorns

ALBION new-boy James McCLean has revealed how two old team-mates helped persuade him to make the move to The Hawthorns.

The Ireland international winger says chats with friends Callum McManaman and Craig Gardner helped convince him the Baggies were the club for him.

McClean, who has moved from Wigan for £1.5m, played alongside

Gardner for Sunderland and lined up with McManaman for the Lat-ics.

McManaman made the move from the DW Stadium to The Hawthorns in January and McClean has now followed in the Scouser's footsteps.

He said: "I get on well with Callum and I know Craig Gardner well from Sunderland too.

"I've been chatting to them

about it. They told me it was a great club with a brilliant manager whose record speaks for itself.

"I want us to push on next season."

McClean is back in the Premier League after two seasons away and is also looking to make his mark on the international stage by helping Ireland reach the European Championships next year.

Keeper Ben knows he faces a fight for Euro spot

ALBION'S Ben Foster is eyeing a Euro 2016 return for England but admits he faces a fight to regain his spot.

The Baggies keeper is recovering from a cruciate knee ligament injury and is on course to make his comeback in October.

Foster suffered the injury in March – his third serious knee injury, but first on his left knee – and missed England's 3-2 win in Slovenia on Sunday.

The Three Lions top Group E and are on course to qualify for France next year following six wins from six games.

Eight-cap Foster was regular deputy to Joe Hart before his injury but knows with Tom Heaton, Rob Green and John Ruddy all holding England ambitions, and the emergence of Jack Butland at Stoke, his return is not guaranteed.

"I've got two or three big carrots in front of me I need to aim for," he said. "Roy (Hodgson) gave me a call and told me how sorry he was and how unlucky I was. Things like that happen, you have to roll with it and suck it up.

"I don't expect any favours, definitely not, it's the way it is. You have to pick the players on form. If you're not playing or not performing, I don't see why you should expect to be in.

"It's completely changed, it's brilliant. We have waited so long to say we have got a good bit of talent playing in the Premier League.

"I was at United with Tom Heaton who is an incredible keeper.

"We've always had a settled goalkeeping unit – me, Fraser (Forster) and Joe – we all push each other."

George grab a double win over Great Barr

Warwick and Worcester Premier Division 1

The George 252 Great Barr 135 THE George completed the double over Great Barr winning all 12 games in a one sided 117 shot victory.

The match was over as a contest after the 1st four as Shane Day (21-3), Pete Davenport (21-7), Paul Hemming (21-8) and Paul Greene (21-13) built up a 53 shot advantage.

There was no let-up in the middle four with the lead increasing to 81 shots with wins by Marc Wilson (21-8), Mick and Elliot McGuinness (both 21-14) and Ivan Smout (21-20). The rout was completed with Phil Clinton (21-6), Steve Dicken and Mark Street (both 21-13) and Stewart Meddings (21-16) all won.

South Staffs Division 1: Chads-moor 247 The George 148.

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Villa's rebuild starts with Richards

TIM SHERWOOD'S rebuilding programme at Villa Park has started with the capture of England international Micah Richards.

The defender, who can play right-back or centre-back, has signed a four-year deal with the club, reportedly worth £65,000 per week.

Richards returns to Birmingham, the city of his birth, after a spell on loan at Italian club Fiorentina from parent club Manchester City, where his contract came to an end this summer. West Ham, Sunderland and Stoke City were among a host of clubs battling for the 26-year-old defender.

Leandro Bacuna and Alan Hutton have been sharing the right-back spot since Sherwood took over in February, the latter appearing in the FA Cup final thrashing against Arsenal.

Richards' first goal for City came against Villa in 2006 and he went on to appear 179 times for the Citizens. He won two Premier League titles at the Etihad, as well as the FA Cup and League Cup.

During Manuel Pellegrini's first season at the helm he appeared only 10 times, losing his place in the side to Pablo Zabaleta.

He was promptly loaned out to Serie A outfit Fiorentina for 2014/15, where he featured 19 times in all competitions.

Richards made his international debut in November 2006 against the Netherlands and has won 13 caps to date. Manager Tim Sherwood said: "I'm really pleased to get Micah on board and I'm sure he will prove to be an excellent signing for the football club."

The two parties agreed terms recently, but with Richards on holiday it held up the completion of the deal.

Skipper Fabian Delph has been rumoured with a move to City.

Tim Sherwood is the man to turn Villa, says Dublin

DION Dublin has backed Tim Sherwood to reverse Villa's fortunes next season – even if he has to 'throttle' his misfiring stars.

Sherwood was able to revive the claret and blues after taking over in February when they were in the relegation zone.

The former Spurs chief has already stated he does not plan to be battling against the drop next season and former club favourite Dublin, who spent six years at Villa Park between 1998 and 2004, believes Sherwood will do whatever it takes to get his message across – even if it means a no-nonsense approach.

"I played against Tim, and with him as well for England, so he'll be instilling that belief and putting his arm round the right players and throttling the others that need to be throttled," said Dublin.

"The way that Tim manages, especially a club like Villa, it's important that he does it his way, it's important that people get on with him and he's given time and patience.

"Tim's one from the old school, it's black and white with him. There are no grey areas."

Heathens team up for Golden Hammer

CRADLEY Heathens will once again team up with Dudley Stroke Association in staging the showpiece individual event of the year.

A top class field is coming together for the F.A.S.T Golden Hammer at Perry Barr on Wednesday, August 12 – including the star riders from Heathens, Birmingham and Coventry.

And there's a place for new National League sensation Bradley Wilson-Dean, the Eastbourne man who has already alerted interest from Elite League clubs.

It will be the sixth successive year the club have joined forces with the Stroke Association, promoting the F.A.S.T message – Face, Arms, Speech,

Speedway

Time – relating to recognising the symptoms of stroke.

Cradley's riders will be involved, whilst flying Birmingham top three Adam Ellis, Tom Perry and Zach Wajtknecht will also be in action on home soil.

Meanwhile, former Heathens' favourites and current Coventry heat-leaders Dan Greenwood and Darryl Ritchings will compete alongside Wilson-Dean. With more riders still to be announced, another top class night of action is in prospect.

Said club co-promoter Gary Patchett, who has assembled the field: "The Golden Hammer is our flagship meeting, and it seems like it goes from strength to strength as an event every year. This is arguably our best since we relaunched the club.

"The past tradition is to try and include the current Cradley team, former Cradley riders and also past winners which is something we've tried to continue this year.

"We'll have six of our current riders, with Nathan Greaves unfortunately likely to miss out because of his injury. He's set a comeback target, but I think the Golden Hammer early in August might be a touch ambitious."

HALES STRIVE TO FIND FORM

HALESOWEN look to find some much needed form this Saturday when they go to Coventry and North Warwickshire.

Faisal Shahid's side were below their best once again at the weekend when they salvaged an unlikely draw thanks to some stubborn resistance from the lower order batsmen.

It's a worrying run of form and Shahid could now be looking towards the second string who are on a good run of form with the possibility of change.

The start at Bridgnorth was delayed by two hours after overnight and morning rain and saw the match reduced to 38 overs per side.

Importantly Shahid won the toss and had no hesitation inviting Bridgnorth to bat first on a worn strip that looked likely to take spin.

Opening pair Karl Quiney and skipper James Ralph had out on 30 for the opening wicket before Shahid struck to have Quiney (15) caught behind by Wes Griffiths.

An early bowling change at the opposite end saw Dan Jeavons strike to remove new batsman Ryan Lockley for 5 to be quickly followed by Ralph (19) to leave the hosts reeling at 42-3.

Contributions

Solid contributions, however, from the league leaders middle order of S. Gregory (53), Exall (20) and Weston (35) boosted the Bridgnorth score but the returning Rhodes claimed three late wickets to restrict the total to 179-9 from their 38 overs when they had looked looked like posting a target around 200.

Halesowen got off to the worst possible start when Zain Shahid, surprisingly promoted to open the innings, fell in only the third over to opening bowler Dale Quiney.

Halesowen wickets continued to fall to a series of rash shots and both Stebbings (18) and Gabriel (7) were dismissed playing expansively.

That said at 74-4 Halesowen were still well in the hunt needing just over 100 from the remaining 15 overs with opener Kester Moseley still at the crease and big guns Griffiths and Barrett still to bat. Both, however, were to fall to spinner Whittney in quick succession.

Couple with a great track record



Eric and Pam Horwill's work has been recognised with an Unsung Heroes award from British Athletics

DURING more than six decades in athletics, there isn't much Eric and Pam Horwill haven't turned their hands to.

Whether it be competing internationally, coaching at Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers, or sitting on the board of Staffordshire Athletics to name just one association – if you can think of a role, the husband and wife from Wordsley have probably done it.

"It's a long story really," admits Pam with a chuckle. "We've been involved in quite a bit." Their sterling work was recently recognised by British Athletics, who handed them an Unsung Hero Award. The couple run the club's youth section but that tells only a fraction of

a story which began 64 years ago, when Pam, a keen cross country runner, joined the club, which was then Stourbridge and Wordsley.

"I remember watching Fanny Blankers-Koen, who was nicknamed the Flying Dutch Housewife, compete at the London Olympics in 1948," she said.

"I thought, I wouldn't mind having a go at that."

Pam would go on to compete at the national championships while Eric, who she met when they both attended Wordsley New Street Youth Club, achieved international recognition as a race walker and until recently was still competing at European Masters events.

Moxey voted on to Football League board

WOLVES chief executive Jez Moxey has been elected on to the Football League board.

After a vote of Championship clubs, Moxey – who has been at Wolves for 15 years – joined Brighton chief executive Paul Barber to represent the division on the board.

There are 10 members on the board, led by chairman Greg Clarke.

Moxey said: "It is a privilege and honour to have been voted onto the Football League board by colleagues from Championship clubs.

"I look forward to working with the chairman, CEO and the other directors of The Football League.

"I will do what I can to provide positive support, help and guidance on the various issues and challenges that the League faces.

"Part of the role is to protect and promote the interests of the Championship as well as the league as a whole and I will always keep the clubs at the forefront of my thinking."

Middlesbrough's Keith Lamb is the other Championship representative on the board.

They join Football League chief executive Shaun Harvey, independents Richard Bowker and Debbie Jevans, Millwall's Andy Ambler, Scunthorpe's James Rodwell and Oxford's Ian Lenagan.

Ambler was re-elected after Millwall's relegation from the Championship.

Clarke said: "It gives me great pleasure to welcome Jez and Paul onto the board and to welcome Andy back.

"Each of them has enormous experience in professional football, as well as being widely respected by our clubs.

"I very much look forward to working with all three of them in the period ahead."

Yeltz get hands on ex-Villa youth player

HALESOWEN Town have continued with their eye-catching summer spree with the signing of former Villa youth player Darius Darkin.

Darkin, who was a striker in his Villa Park days before taking a more reserved role, made a handful of appearances for Studley last season and has also appeared for, Aylesbury United, Hinkley and Bedworth United since leaving Villa.

The attacker, who recently turned 21, joins up to John Hill's side ahead of the upcoming 2015/2016 season.

Yeltz boss Hill said: "Myself and Matty Clark are delighted to get Darius on board."

★★★

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